

Lebanon urges anti-expulsion action

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon has urged the United Nations to prevent Israel from expelling four Palestinians onto its territory, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. "Lebanon rejects the expulsion, uprooting and deportation of Palestinians from their land to any country," the spokesman said. The Lebanese spokesman said Beirut's stand, adopted by President Amin Gemayel and Acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, had been conveyed to the United Nations and the Arab League. At the United Nations, the Security Council was to hold closed-door consultations Tuesday on a pending Lebanese complaint against Israel. In a request last Thursday for an urgent council meeting, Lebanon said it wanted the 15-nation body to discuss the "continuing acts of aggression and abusive practices of the Israeli occupying forces in Lebanon." In Bonn, the European Community appealed to Israel not to go ahead with its plan to deport nine Palestinians from the occupied territories. The West German ambassador to Israel told the Israeli government on behalf of the community that deportations were in breach of the Geneva Convention, the Bonn Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

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King receives Zimbabwean message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a message from Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe dealing with bilateral relations and the outcome of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last November. The message was delivered to the King by Zimbabwean Minister of Transport Simbarashe Mumbengewi. President Mugabe, current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, thanked King Hussein for briefing him on the outcome of the Arab summit and expressed happiness at the unified Arab stand formulated at the gathering. The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Minister of Transport and Communications Khaled Al Haj Hassan, Royal Jordanian Chairman Ali Ghandour and members of the delegation accompanying the Zimbabwean minister. (Jordan, Zimbabwe discuss ties, page 3).

Khasawneh meets information officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Tuesday spoke highly of the performance of the information media during the extraordinary Arab summit held here last November saying that they lived up to that "great historic event." At a meeting with heads of information departments at the Jordan Broadcasting and Television Corporation, Dr. Khasawneh defined methods of work of the various mass media branches and emphasized the importance of their work.

Mubarak to visit Morocco

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak will visit Morocco for talks with King Hassan early in February, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported on Tuesday. The visit, at the king's invitation, will be included in his tour of four West European countries and the United States later this month, it quoted an official source as saying.

Hassan II is ill

RABAT (R) — Morocco's King Hassan, who suffered a severe bout of influenza with high fever earlier this month, has been advised by his doctors to take "maximum rest until complete recovery," the royal palace said Tuesday.

Tunis meeting reviews Palestinian education

TUNIS (Petra) — An Arab council supervising educational affairs of the Palestinian people under occupation has opened a meeting here to discuss beaming of educational programmes to Arab students in schools in the occupied territories. An official told reporters after the first meeting Monday that the council, which ends its meetings on Thursday, will also discuss subjects related to Israel's drive to change curricula in Arab schools and distort Arab history books. Delegates from Jordan, Syria, Palestine and the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation will submit their recommendations to representatives of Arab countries hosting refugees at a scheduled meeting in Tunis.

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Israel bars Goulding from Gaza camps, prepares to expel 4 Arabs to Lebanon

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Israel, defying the United Nations, barred a special U.N. envoy from refugee camps in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday and prepared to expel four Palestinians to Lebanon despite a Security Council resolution.



A Palestinian woman tries to stop an Israeli soldier from arresting a man in Arab Jerusalem.

Israeli army officers ordered U.N. Under-Secretary General Marrack Goulding out when he tried to visit the Jabalya and Sba'i refugee camps, which they declared closed military areas.

Israeli troops meanwhile killed a Palestinian protester who allegedly tried to knife soldiers in the town of Rafah, near the Egyptian border, the army said.

Sources quoted by Reuters said the deportation of four Palestinians from the occupied West Bank was imminent, despite last week's U.N. Security Council resolution urging Israel not to expel them and five other jailed Arabs.

The army declared seven of the eight Gaza refugee camps under curfew or closed.

When Mr. Goulding tried to visit the eighth, Al Mugazi, several hundred Palestinian demonstrators were burning tyres and throwing stones at Israeli troops and he decided not to enter to avoid creating problems.

"I have made clear throughout that the last thing we want to do is to provoke any confrontations," he told the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, in a tense exchange in front of reporters.

Rabin said: "I understand in one camp we didn't allow you in. In another camp, the local people didn't allow you in."

Mr. Goulding contradicted him. "No, your intelligence is better than that, minister," he said.

Diplomats said the refusal to admit Mr. Goulding to Jabalya appeared to be a deliberate snub since the Israelis had indicated privately he would be allowed in.

Other U.N. international staff (Continued on page 3)

Moscow reviewing Israeli request to receive diplomats

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Soviet Union is considering receiving Israeli diplomats for the first time since cutting off relations with Israel during the 1967 war, a Soviet spokesman told Israel Radio Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said Israel had asked to send a "consular" or "technical" group to the Dutch embassy which looks after Israeli interests in Moscow.

"This request was placed and it is under consideration. It is not rejected. It is not accepted. It is under consideration," Gerasimov told Israel Radio by telephone from Moscow.

He denied that acceptance of the request would in any way reciprocate a visit to Israel by a Soviet consular delegation. The delegation has been in Israel for six months and Israel said Monday it would renew their visas for one more month.

"We don't link these two things," Gerasimov said.

Moscow rejected any reciprocal arrangements when it sent the delegation to Israel last year to

look after Russian properties, mostly religious sites, and provide consular services.

The Soviet Union and all its East bloc allies except Romania broke off relations with Israel over the 1967 war. In the last 18 months, Hungary and Poland have agreed to exchange interest offices with Israel.

Gerasimov also denied that Moscow had any knowledge of an Israeli businessman, Shabtai Kalmanovitz, who emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1971 and was arrested by Israeli police last month on suspicion of spying for Soviet intelligence.

"I don't know anything about it. Nobody knows anything," Gerasimov said. "Why should he spy for us? Why should he? He is your citizen. He came to your country."

An Israeli judge has barred the disclosure of details about Kalmanovitz's case. Kalmanovitz helped arrange an east-west spy swap in the late 1970s and travelled widely in Eastern

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Gorbachev: Halt in Soviet reform will herald disaster

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said his reform programme is under fire from right and left but argued disaster would follow if it were stopped, the TASS news agency reported Tuesday.

Mr. Gorbachev also said that if the "perestroika" restructuring drive he has launched were pushed through, the Soviet Union would become the world's prime democracy.

The Kremlin chief made his remarks during a meeting on Jan. 8 with leading newspaper editors and cultural figures, including several who have been leading the "glasnost" campaign.

"We are frequently criticised — by some people from the right and others from the left," he told the meeting, according to a detailed account of his speech and the ensuing debate issued by TASS.

"To stop now would be disastrous. We must not permit it under any circumstances," Mr. Gorbachev said.

"If we take fright and stop the

processes we have begun, it would have the most serious consequences, because we simply could not raise our people to such a massive task a second time," he declared.

And he affirmed: "No one will go so far in questions of democracy as we will, because that is the essence of the socialist system."

Analysts said Mr. Gorbachev's wide-ranging address and the ensuing discussion with some of the country's leading intellectuals appeared clearly aimed at signalling reforms were proceeding full steam ahead.

The Soviet leader said a deepening of the democratisation drive inside the Communist Party and in local government would be the main focus of an extraordinary party conference due this summer.

In his first public reference to alarm among many intellectuals and some workers and students over the sacking of his erstwhile protégé Boris Yeltsin last November, he said their fears had been misplaced.

Arab foreign ministers to meet Jan. 24

TUNIS (R) — Arab League foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting in Tunis Jan. 24 to discuss more than a month of violent Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, league officials said Tuesday.

Libya requested the meeting of the 21-member league, which will be the second to be held since the protests began in the occupied territories.

The Arab League held a low-level meeting attended by permanent representatives to the Tunis-based league headquarters on Dec. 15 which condemned Israeli massacres during the protests against Israeli occupation.

Arab League officials said details of the new session were agreed after a meeting Tuesday between Chadi Kibi, the secretary-general, and the representative in Tunis of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Hakan Balouni.

Israel's use of bullets to quell Arab protests has drawn international criticism even from its closest allies, such as the United States, as well as from the Arab World.

By the middle of last week, at least 11 Arab League members — the simple majority required for an emergency session — had agreed to a meeting.

But Arab League officials indicated that ministers' schedules and an awaited United Nations report had caused the delay in organising the session.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is due to report on the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories to the U.N. Security Council on Jan. 20 — four days before the Arab League session is to be held.

He was asked to prepare the report after the Security Council passed a resolution on Dec. 22 strongly deploring Israel's use of force to suppress the protests. The United States abstained.

U.N. Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding is currently visiting Israel and the occupied territories to examine ways of protecting Palestinians there.

The United States Monday renewed its call for restraint.

King attends graduation of police officers

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, attended a ceremony marking the graduation of police officers from the Rafrein Training Camp near South Shuneh and handed over standards and flags to the various groups of graduates.

The groups included batches from the Badia police, the Border Police Force, the Police Training School, the Special Police Command and the Women Police Corps.

The King reviewed a guard of honour and distributed prizes to graduates excelling in their training courses. The King also presented awards to a number of retired officers of the Public Security Department (PSD), children of PSD officers killed in the line of duty and friends of police

groups. The graduation ceremony also included a performance by the new graduates of their practical training employing live ammunition.

PSD Director-General Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali delivered a brief speech at the outset of the ceremony outlining the training programmes at the Rafrein camp.

Lt-Gen. Majali distributed diplomas to the 332 graduates.

Attending the ceremony with the King were Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Cabinet ministers, Parliament members and senior army and PSD officers.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday hands over flags to new batches of graduating police officers from the Rafrein Training Camp in South Shuneh (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Tanker ablaze, 8 missing after Iraqi air attack

DUBAI (Agencies) — Iraqi jets set a Cypriot tanker on fire in their second confirmed attack on Gulf shipping in 24 hours, shipping sources said Tuesday, signalling a new flare-up in the tanker war.

Sources quoted by Reuters said eight crewmen from the 21,321-tonne United Venture were missing and fire-fighting tugs were battling the blaze 20 hours after the attack on Monday night.

"The ship is still burning and there is extensive damage," one source said. The ship was ferrying refined products to Iran's Lavan Island terminal in the central Gulf.

Iraq said Monday it had hit three ships near Iran's northern Gulf coast, one Monday and two Sunday.

Regional shipping sources confirmed one of the Sunday attacks, on the 280,476-tonne Iranian shuttle tanker Khark 3. They said damage was minor and there were no casualties.

The raids ended a 10-day lull in the tanker war between Iraq and Iran and cast a pall over Syrian-brokered efforts to negotiate an end to their seven-year-old conflict.

Shipping sources said the attacks on the Khark 3 and the United Venture could signal a new round of Iranian retaliatory raids, similar to a blitz of attacks last month.

"It looks like another bad month," one source said. During December, 25 ships were confirmed hit and 24 seamen died in attacks by either Iran or Iraq, making it the worst month on record since the tanker war flared in earnest four years ago.

The shipping sources said the United Venture, managed by the Pireaus-based Diana Shipping Agencies, had joined Iran's shuttle fleet two weeks ago.

The fleet, which ferries exports and imports from the safer waters at the mouth of the Gulf to ports in the north, has come under frequent attack by Iraq in "missile alley."

Iranian rulers end haggle over government powers

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's top leaders appear to have patched over problems of government, with the country's main war spokesman expressing relief Tuesday at a "cordial exchange" of messages.

The reports of Iran's national news agency IRNA followed a ruling last week by spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini firmly backing reformist sections of the clerical leadership.

Diplomatic analysts said ideological differences had split the leadership and blocked key government decisions.

The ruling saying the Islamic government had almost absolute powers contradicted President Ali Khamenei's narrower interpretation of the scope of government authority.

IRNA reported Tuesday that Khomeini had sent a letter of warm praise to the president in reply to a brief message from Khamenei accepting the ruling. The agency reported Khomeini

Syria reports positive outcome of its Gulf mediation efforts

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria believes its mediation in the Iran-Iraq war has been positive in promoting dialogue between Tehran and the Gulf Arab states, Information Minister Mohammad Salman said Tuesday.

Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa visited several Arab Gulf states this month after a mediation shuttle between Riyadh and Tehran by Mr. Khaddam in December.

"We have succeeded in achieving an agreement by Iran and the Arab Gulf states to hold a direct dialogue and this is a positive outcome of the Syrian mediation," Mr. Salman told Reuters.

In his first interview since taking office last month, the minister said Syria was also doing its best for the release of foreign hostages

in Lebanon.

"We will continue for efforts, hoping to achieve success despite the complications of the political and security situation in Lebanon," he said.

Damascus, he said, regarded the hostage issue from a humanitarian point of view regardless of any political or selfish interests and "through our condemnation of terrorism and kidnapping."

"Syria will exert every possible effort and will adopt all measures to save the hostages..." he added.

There are 24 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon, Syria has been credited with helping in several previous hostage releases.

Speaking of Syria's Gulf mediation efforts, Mr. Salman said a

soft approach to Iran was needed.

"Through our experience, we believe that we can reach positive results with Iran through cordial dialogue..." and not through pressure or rallying the foreign fleets, which complicate the situation," Mr. Salman said.

Diplomats said Syria's mediation had toned down a Gulf war statement issued at the end of a December summit meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders in Riyadh, which avoided harsh criticism of Iran.

Referring to Syria's relations with Iraq, the minister said Damascus had adopted a new strategy to achieve effective Arab solidarity to confront Israel. Reconciliation efforts with Baghdad were a result of this policy, he

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Mubarak arrives in Doha praising Syrian endeavours to end Gulf war

DOHA (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived here Tuesday after slamming the Joint Arab Defence Pact as no more than ink on paper and praising Syria for trying to end the Iran-Iraq war.

As on earlier stops in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, Mr. Mubarak received a warm welcome.

The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani, held a long line of royal family members, government leaders and senior diplomats to receive the Egyptian president when his jet landed at Doha international airport.

Before leaving Kuwait earlier Tuesday, Mr. Mubarak held a second round of talks with its Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Mr. Mubarak told reporters Monday night after his first round of talks that he hoped current Syrian mediation efforts "will succeed in putting an end to the Iran-Iraq war," despite Syria's differences with the Egyptian government.

"I will carry the Syrians on my shoulders around the streets if they do so," he said. "This underlines the importance of the region to us and Egypt's importance to it."

A Kuwait government spokesman said Monday's discussions were conducted "in an atmosphere of understanding" and "dealt with the Gulf war, the Palestinian uprising and issues of mutual interest."

Mr. Mubarak's tour will also take him to Bahrain and Oman, the remaining members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Egyptian and Gulf officials earlier raised the prospect of invoking the 1950 Joint Arab Defence Pact which provides for Arab states to aid each other in case of foreign aggression.

But Mr. Mubarak, who has already made clear Egypt was ready to provide all possible military aid to Arab Gulf friends, appeared to dismiss the pact as outdated.

Replying to a question, Mr. Mubarak said: "There is no contradiction between the Joint Arab Defence Pact and the... peace accords with Israel."

He said those accords endorse

"Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, which allows the two sides the right of unilateral or collective self defence."

Mr. Mubarak said the treaty "does not prevent Egypt from implementing..." the Arab Defence Pact, though the latter has now become merely ink on paper because of the failure of Arab states to abide by it.

Contrasting Egypt's military supplies to Iraq with aid by other Arab states to Iran, he asked: "Why don't you ask those states that supplied Iran with weapons and missiles for its war against Iraq. Are those states committed to the Arab Defence Pact?"

Mr. Mubarak said Cairo was committed to the security of the GCC states.

"We are willing to provide Egyptian-made arms to any Arab country seeking to deter danger," said Mr. Mubarak.

After praising the Syrian efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war, Mr. Mubarak dismissed reports of an imminent reconciliation between Cairo and Damascus. Syria

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Soviets insist on linking cuts in strategic arms to SDI

GENEVA (Agencies) — The Soviet Union said Tuesday that limits on the U.S. "Star Wars" missile defence project must be agreed before it would sign a treaty to make the 50 per cent cuts in long-range nuclear missiles sought by both sides.

Soviet arms negotiator Alexei Obukhov said compliance with the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, limiting defence systems, was "a necessary prerequisite for implementing 50 per cent reductions in Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive arms."

Mr. Obukhov was speaking at a news conference on arriving for the ninth round of U.S.-Soviet negotiations, due to start Thursday. He will lead the Soviet delegation during the talks.

Both sides have said the talks will be an all-out bid to clinch a strategic arms treaty before a superpower summit due to be held in Moscow by June this year. U.S. and Soviet long-range strategic missiles are targeted on

each other's territory.

Since President Ronald Reagan launched his strategic defence initiative (SDI) project, called "Star Wars," in March 1983, the superpowers have argued bitterly over whether the multi-billion-dollar project violates the ABM treaty.

The Reagan administration says the accord permits research and development of anti-missile systems using new technologies. Moscow says the treaty was intended to ban such anti-missile defence systems.

The dispute over the ABM treaty and the SDI project has deadlocked efforts to agree on deep cuts in the massive strategic nuclear arsenals.

Mr. Obukhov said Tuesday the delegations could "rely on the vast positive experience of negotiating" the treaty banning intermediate-range nuclear forces, which the two sides signed at their Washington summit in December.

Palestinian refugees deny claims of violence by Egyptians in Rafah

RAFAH, Egypt (AP) — Palestinian refugees have expressed anger at Israeli reports that a peaceful demonstration a day earlier turned violent with Egyptian police firing indiscriminately at protesters.

Their statements seemed to refute claims by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Egyptian troops opened fire on demonstrators in the Rafah area bordering the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. Israeli radio carried a similar claim.

On Monday, the governor of northern Sinai, Mounir Shash, also denied the reports, but a doctor at a nearby hospital said a civilian had been wounded in the hand by Egyptian police gunfire, and a policeman slightly injured in the hip during Sunday's demonstration.

"These are all lies. There were some demonstrations after we heard wailing from women in Gaza mourning their dead," said Attiya Abdul Aziz Moussalem, Camp Canada's elderly mayor, better known among its inhabitants as Abu Hikmet.

Several hundred Palestinian

men, women and children held anti-Israeli demonstrations over the weekend along the chain-link and razor-wired fence that separates their refugee camp from their families in the Israeli-occupied territory.

"The Palestinians here need to express their feelings and support. Egyptian forces stood by to secure the demonstration," he said.

Camp Canada, named after a United Nations Canadian peacekeeping force that was once based on the site, is home to 50,000 Palestinians.

They were stranded there when Israel returned the Sinai peninsula to Egypt in 1982, and the two governments have since been negotiating their transfer to the Gaza Strip.

Commenting on Shamir's remarks, Abu Hikmet said "my feeling is that I am very angry

that such lies are said."

"There have been no deaths, nor clashes, nor anything," he said.

Life seemed normal in the camp with no extra security around.

"Since the uprising started last month, every day we see across the wire our families being shot and tear-gassed," said a Palestinian youth who declined to be named.

"It was only normal that we should wish to demonstrate in support of our brothers under oppression."

An elementary school teacher, who declined to be identified, complained that he had to stop class recently because of the tear-gas blown across.

"We see them dropping tear bombs from helicopters on the other side, and most of the time the wind blows it over to our side."

"The other day, I had to dismiss class because the tear gas became too much," he said.

In the evenings, most of the male Palestinian refugees gather in homes to discuss the uprising

of their relatives and friends only a few hundred metres away.

"Despite the gunfire, despite the Israeli actions, we have to go back," Abu Hikmet said, echoing the views of most Palestinians in the camp.

"We cannot leave our country and leave to Israel the chance to create more settlements."

The weekend demonstrators carried banners vowing to "return to Palestine," and chanted "in spirit, in blood, we sacrifice for you, oh Palestine."

Youths said these were not the first since the troubles began on Dec. 8.

They said there had been minor scattered demonstrations over the past few weeks, all of them peaceful and with the approval of the Egyptian authorities.

They said they would organise another demonstration, with Egyptian cooperation, in answer to Shamir's allegations.

"We are merely protesting the Israeli action against our brothers," Abu Hikmet said.

Palestinians restrict military operations

CAIRO (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat says PLO military leaders have decided to restrict military operations against Israeli military targets to southern Lebanon.

But Mr. Arafat in an interview published on Tuesday in the PLO daily Al Akhbar said the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip had been organised by the PLO and would continue.

Mr. Arafat said the PLO's military council on Jan. 9 agreed to avoid the use of arms in Gaza and the West Bank so as not to give Israel "an excuse to launch a massacre against the Palestinians."

The same body also decided to restrict military operations to South Lebanon, he added.

The PLO chief said the Palestinians needed international protection and help for the restoration of their rights. Israeli troops have shot dead 34 demonstrators in the occupied territories during the current revolt.

Mr. Arafat expressed hopes he would be able to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo following his current tour in the Gulf states and before his scheduled visit to Washington and Western Europe later this month.

Mr. Arafat said four Palestinians were killed and 50 injured on Monday in what he said was the heaviest day of Arafat's confrontation with Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a hurriedly prepared news conference at the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Baghdad headquarters, Mr. Arafat told reporters on Monday night that the fiercest fighting took place in Nablus on the West Bank, especially at the Ain Beit-Al-Ma'a Camp, where 15 youths were injured.

He said 3,000 Palestinians fled the camp for the nearby hills, many throwing stones and empty bottles at the Israeli troops. He said one resident used a bow and arrow against the troops.

Mr. Arafat said three Palestinians, Basil Al-Yassouri, Mohamud Fayyadh, 20, and Atta Mustafa Hudheir, 25, were killed in Gaza; and that Rabeb Ghannam, 16, was killed on the West Bank.

The Israeli army says three Palestinians died on Monday, one of wounds sustained earlier, and put at 31 the number of Arabs killed in the wave of unrest since Dec. 9. Reports from foreign relief workers add at least three more fatalities to the overall death toll. Palestinian sources in Israel say several wounded demonstrators are in critical condition.

Mr. Arafat said Monday's unrest was marked by the intensive use of Israeli tanks, armoured vehicles and helicopters dropping teargas on residential areas and Palestinian camps.

Sudanese civil war shifts to south

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Sudan's civil war has shifted back to its traditional southern battlegrounds after government forces ousted rebels from two east-central Sudan towns, military statistics released Tuesday indicated.

Rebel takeovers in November and December of Kurmuk and Gizen, strategic hamlets on the Blue Nile region, represented their furthest northward incursion in five years of fighting.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army held Kurmuk for 40 days before government troops recaptured it on Dec. 23 and Gizen for three weeks until it fell to the government on Jan. 1. Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi said Monday more than 600 soldiers and rebels died in bitter fighting over the two towns.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 for administrative, economic and political changes to favour the country's mostly Christian and animist south. Many southerners contend the Muslim-dominated central government discriminates against their region.

On Tuesday, a military spokesman told the Associated Press that 41 rebels, four soldiers and 15 civilians died in recent fighting, all in the southern Equatoria, Bahr Al Ghazal and Upper Nile regions south west of Blue Nile.

The spokesman did not explain how the civilians died but said it was in Raga, a desert town 680 miles (1,090 kilometres) south west of Khartoum.

Speaking anonymously under Defence Ministry rules, the spokesman said fighting included a rebel attack on the important centre of Rumbek in Bahr Al Ghazal in which 35 attackers died.

The SPLA, led by Col. John Garang, launched military operations against the government in Sudan's three southern provinces in 1983.

In his speech, Mr. Mahdi indicated that Col. Garang may be

softening his demands that Sharia, or Islamic Law, be scrapped as a condition for peace.

Former military strongman President Jaafar Numeiri imposed Sharia three months after the rebellion began. It remains the country's basis for law but has been largely ignored during Mr. Mahdi's 21 months of civilian rule.

Mr. Mahdi told the parliamentarians that Col. Garang's movement has accepted with reservations the transitional constitution under which Sudan currently is governed.

The only condition, the premier said, is that the article making Islamic Law the sole source of legislation be rescinded and that "Sharia be applied only in areas where Muslims constitute a majority." Col. Garang previously has demanded that it be eliminated nationwide.

Mr. Mahdi said his government will continue to seek peaceful settlement with the rebels but at the same time will "firmly confront foreign aggression, internal subversion and all forms of treason."

"The southern plight is a legitimate political problem which the north must recognise," Mr. Mahdi told the United Arab Emirates paper Al Ittihad in an interview published on Tuesday.

"Those who call for a military solution do not recognise this problem, which requires a democratic political settlement."

He said a political solution could be achieved through a constitutional conference.

"We still seek to hold the proposed conference which I think would not be distant if we could keep the Sudanese problem away from external polarisation," Mr. Mahdi added.

Panel names winners of King Faisal awards

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A Filipino Muslim activist and specialists in leukemia and genetics in U.S. universities, including an American professor, were among this year's winners of the King Faisal International Awards, the awards committee announced Tuesday.

The foundation was set up in 1976 with \$1.2 billion donated by eight sons of the king to propagate Islam and set up an Arab version of the Nobel Prize.

The winners are not necessarily of the Muslim faith.

Awards in four of the five categories will be shared by two people. King Faisal Foundation Director-General Prince Khalid Al Faisal said. Foundation officials said the awards will be presented to the winners in two months.

The award in science was shared by biologists Ricardo

Miledi, a Mexican professor at the University of California at Irvine, and Pierre Chambon, director of the Molecular Genetics Laboratory at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in France.

Miledi, who has also done research at the University College of London, studied the transmission of information from nerve cells to muscles and other nerve cells. The Awards Committee said this research has implications for treatment of nervous disorders and other reactions.

Chambon has researched properties of genes and the committee said, influenced the advance of molecular medicine especially in cancer.

Other winners included: — Arabic literature: Shared by Muhammad Ibn Sharif, of Mohammed V University in Morocco, a Moroccan, and Mahmud Y.A. Makki, of the University of Cairo, an Egyptian, for their studies of literature of Spain during Muslim rule in the Middle Ages.

— Islamic studies: Shared by Muhammad Outh, an Egyptian and professor at Umm Al Qura University in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and Mikdad Yalcin, who is Turkish and a professor at Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University in Riyadh, for their work in Islamic education.

U.S. extends Libya sanctions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has extended 2-year-old economic sanctions against Libya, contending there is no evidence that country has abandoned support of international terrorism.

"The U.S. believes that the appropriate goal is to continue our policy, continue to isolate (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi diplomatically and economically in order to limit his

ability to cause harm," deputy spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said Monday.

She said the administration recently approved the extension of sanctions against Libya until 1989.

Mrs. Oakley said Libya has shipped arms to the Irish Republican Army, sponsored attacks against Libyan dissidents in Europe and engaged in aggression against Chad.

Israeli conscript jailed for refusing post in occupied land

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli army jailed an 18-year-old U.S.-born conscript for 28 days for refusing to serve in the occupied territories, the soldier's mother said Monday.

Charles Lenchner, an immigrant from Pittsburgh, USA, was tried and sentenced Sunday after rejecting an assignment to the military border police in Arab East Jerusalem, his mother, Eva Lenchner, told the Associated Press.

"Charles refused the assignment because his conscience would not allow him to enforce Israeli rule over the Palestinians," said Ms. Lenchner. "He said he did not help the Israeli government impose its occupation."

Ms. Lenchner said authorities told her Charles had been sent to a prison south of Tel Aviv. She said she had not spoken to him since before his military trial Sunday.

"I hope to be able to meet with him, but I don't know if I will be allowed to," she said. She said she feared prison conditions would be harsh because military prisons have been filled to capacity since mass arrests of Arab protesters began weeks ago.

Lenchner joined 45 other high school students about to be conscripted into the army in writing a letter last September to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, warning that they would refuse to carry out "acts of repression" by serving in the territories Israel occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

Rabin and other officials sharply criticised the students for displaying what they said was flagrant disregard for the law.

Amit Levenhoff, a leader of

the student group, said Monday that Lenchner's arrest only strengthened the resolve of the other members to act on their beliefs.

"We are very sorry Charles had to go to jail, but we are proud that he stood up for his convictions," Levenhoff told the AP. "Charles showed that you can and must stand up against the army. We will all follow his example if we have to."

Levenhoff said that since September, the group had expanded to include 66 students awaiting conscription into the army.

Lenchner, 18, immigrated to Israel with his family in 1975 from their home in Pittsburgh. The family settled in Tel Aviv, and Lenchner attended an American high school in the nearby suburb of Kfar Shmaryahu.

Ms. Lenchner said her son's refusal to serve in Arab East Jerusalem marked the second time he turned down an assignment in the territories. The first time, he received a suspended sentence of one week, and was warned he would be jailed if he repeated the offense.

Ms. Lenchner said she supported her son's actions despite his punishment.

"Charles feels that once you cross over into the territories as a soldier, you are immediately corrupted," Ms. Lenchner said. "You cannot serve there and be fair, because you are enforcing an unfair situation. He said he would not help his government do that."

Israeli troops have shot and killed at least 34 Palestinians since the rebellion erupted in the territories last Dec. 8.

Israel takes over power from Palestinian firm in Old City

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel began supplying power to Jewish customers in Jerusalem's walled Old City overnight, cutting off Jewish homes in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank from a Palestinian grid.

A spokeswoman for the state-owned Israel Electric Corporation said on Tuesday the Jerusalem District Electric Company (JDEC) grid was disconnected at night partly to prevent protests by Palestinians opposed to the move.

"It was done overnight to be safe first of all, to prevent protests. Secondly, it was done to prevent complications with a lack of electricity during the day," she told Reuters.

The Israeli action followed two years of talks with JDEC, the largest Arab firm in the West Bank and long a symbol of Palestinian nationalism, over the firm's debts of \$30 million to the Israel Electric Company, which supplies it with 95 per cent of its

power.

JDEC's Jewish customers had complained of frequent power cuts but the company said this was due to Israel's refusal to let it buy new equipment.

Another two Jewish settlements in occupied Jerusalem, Mishor Adumim and Ma'aleh Adumim, were connected to the Israeli grid on Monday, the spokeswoman said.

Last month JDEC said it wanted to start buying power from Jordan and Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shaleh said he was in favour of the idea.

A total of 30,000 Jewish customers in settlements built after Israel occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war will now receive power from the Israeli company.

Shaleh said last month JDEC could continue supplying its 70,000 Palestinian customers and Israel would compensate any workers sacked because of the cut.

'PLO has chemical arms'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Palestinian commandos have chemical weapons and will not hesitate to use them against Israel in future wars, a commando leader says.

"Our interest in chemical weapons is old... It is not something new," Col. Mahmoud Natour, code-named Abu Tayeh, said in an interview in the latest issue of the Arabic monthly magazine Al Nasr, or victory, which was published in Cyprus on Monday.

Col. Natour is the commander of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat's

crack "Forces 17" in charge of special operations.

He is a member of PLO's Military Council and was commander of Palestinian forces in mainly Muslim West Beirut during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

He contended that Israel was also developing a chemical weapons arsenal as a "strategic first-strike deterrent" to be used as an alternative to its nuclear weapons.

Col. Natour said Israel is believed to have up to 50 nuclear warheads but would only use them as a last resort.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:50	Programme Review
15:55	Cartoons
16:15	Children's programme
17:10	Isara Globo TV
17:35	Programme on Jordanian universities
18:25	Local series
19:00	Iraq Newsletter
19:10	Religious programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Studio of Art
22:30	Wrestling
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:30	Wrestling (cont.)
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	French varieties
19:00	News in French
19:10	Aujourd'hui En Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Sports Magazine
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Valerie
21:00	Documentary - Well-Being
21:30	Alfred Hitchcock
22:30	News in English
23:30	Flood-side
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 850 KHz. SW Tel: 77111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsday
08:30	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:05	Morning Show Contd.
11:00	15 Minute Theatre
11:30	Songs from Movies
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Readings
12:45	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Instrumentals
14:30	The Young Sound
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News in Summary
16:05	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favorites
17:00	Jordan Weekly
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Science Report
18:30	Music
19:00	Newspeak
19:30	Date with a Star

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.	
COURSE	
* "Bibliothekgesprache," a course on German literature for Germans or from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.	
SERVICE CLUBS	
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.	
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.	
Lions Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m.	
Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Tel. 616534, 817534.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lweibdeh, Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, Tel. 661757.	
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabel Lweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5.30 p.m. Tel. 622366.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 678906, chaplain's residence tel. 601395.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.	
Amman International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m., Rev. N. Smir, tel. 811295.	
Rahmeh Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational-congregational English Service: Saturday at 6.30 p.m. tel. 822605, Rev. Veli.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) Tel. 815817, 821564.	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hays Arts Centre. Open all week 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum. Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also muskets from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Gha' (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muzak, Jabel Lweibdeh. Opening hours:	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 532045, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
09:15	Agaba (RJ)
09:30	Cairo (RJ)
09:30	Kuwait (RJ)
09:30	Damascus (RJ)
09:50	Dhahran (RJ)
10:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30	Cairo (RJ)
10:45	Athens (RJ)
17:50	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:05	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
18:15	London, Geneva (RJ)
18:30	Madrid, Belgrade (RJ)
18:45	Bangkok (RJ)
18:45	Riyadh (RJ)
23:55	Baghdad (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
07:30	Karachi (PK)
07:40	Cairo (MS)
11:00	Damascus (SY)
11:45	Kuwait (LN)
12:00	Damascus (SY)
12:10	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
12:40	Kuwait (LN)
19:35	Jeddah, Medina (SV)
19:50	Baghdad (LN)
21:00	Frankfurt (LH)
21:40	Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:25	Tripoli (PK)
DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Agaba (RJ)
07:30	Rosetta (ad), (RJ)
11:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30	Athens (RJ)
12:00	Geneva, London (RJ)
12:30	Cairo (RJ)
13:50	Kuwait (RJ)
19:35	Karachi (PK)
19:50	Dhahran (RJ)
19:50	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
19:55	Baghdad (RJ)
20:50	Jeddah (SV)
20:55	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
06:30	Cairo, London (BA)
06:30	Laraca, Zurich (SR)
06:30	Beirut (ME)
06:40	Tripoli (PK)

King honours outgoing Indonesian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred upon Indonesian Ambassador to Jordan Zainul Yasin Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order in appreciation for his efforts in developing bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri decorated the ambassador with the medal at a special reception held Tuesday at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

Mr. Yasin, whose term in Jordan has expired, expressed gratitude to King Hussein for the medal and praised the excellent relations between Jordan and Indonesia.

The reception was attended by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nabih Al Nimr and senior ministry officials, in addition to a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors in Jordan.



Minister of Transport and Communications Khaled Al Haj Hassan meets Tuesday with Zimbabwean Minister of Transport Simbarashe Mumbengezi for talks on bilateral transport and communications links (Petra photo).

Jordan and Zimbabwe discuss transport, communications ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Zimbabwe Tuesday opened talks on promoting cooperation in transport, communications and postal affairs.

The discussion involved Zimbabwean Minister of Transport Simbarashe Mumbengezi and Minister of Transport and Communications Khaled Al Haj Hassan, as well as Chairman and

Executive President of Royal Jordanian Ali Ghandour.

The Zimbabwean minister, who arrived in Amman Monday evening at the head of an official delegation, said that he was looking forward to further cooperation with Jordan in the exchange of information, related to transport and communications.

U.S. congressmen observe conditions in Baqaa camp

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-member American congressional delegation Tuesday toured Baqaa refugee camp to observe the conditions of Palestinian refugees and acquaint themselves with services offered to the camp's residents.

Congressman Bud Shuster said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the visit was intended to familiarize the Congressmen with the conditions of the Palestinian refugees, and to call international public attention to the need to recognize the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people.

"We hope that real progress will be made in the Middle East peace process as a result of His Majesty King Hussein's great efforts," Mr. Shuster said.

During the visit, the two congressmen were briefed on the services offered to the refugees in the camp by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Mr. Shuster and Congressman Michael De Wine visited an UNRWA school, a health centre and a number of homes to observe living conditions.

Later, they met with representatives of the camp's residents, who spoke about the conditions at the camp and their suffering as a result of their displacement following Israel's occupation of their homeland.

Earlier in their visit, Mr. Shuster and Mr. De Wine met with officials and speakers of Parliament for discussions on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Universities association head stresses cultural cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Association of Arab Universities (AAU) Secretary-General Mohammad Dugheim stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between the association and cultural attaches.

During a meeting with Arab cultural attaches in Amman, Dr. Dugheim spoke about means of enhancing this cooperation to enable the association to perform its duties smoothly.

He also called for enriching the AAU library with publications issued by Arab universities, and emphasized the need for issuing a

directory for Arab universities. Dr. Dugheim pointed out that the AAU recently decided that the University of Jordan would be a centre for depositing all Arab university theses.

Dr. Dugheim also said the Arab Atlas project as a high priority on the association's 1988 agenda.

In addition, he praised a decision by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) to establish an Arab university for higher studies.

Agriculture students get firsthand experience at Jordan Valley farms

AMMAN (J.T.) — For the past fifteen weeks, eighteen seniors in the University of Jordan School of Agriculture have participated in a special learning experience in the Jordan Valley. They have been working on commercial farms in the region or at the Deir Alla Agricultural Research Station every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Faculty members are enthusiastic that this first group of students has not only acquired knowledge through this programme, but that it has served as a link between farmers and researchers, thus bringing new technologies to the farms and bringing information on current farming problems back to the university.

Another twenty-five students will begin their Jordan Valley internships later this month.

The internships are being sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture under the Jordan Valley Agricultural Services Project and funded by \$57,000 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The USAID grant provides a small stipend for the students and finances research to solve farming problems of cooperating farmers.

Working with six cooperating farmers, the students participated in farming decisions, daily farm work, planning and management, learning firsthand about problems such as pests, weeds and water management. Their experiences were brought to the attention of university research staff through weekly debriefing sessions and monthly reports the students submitted.

Jordanian scouts at Australian jamboree reported safe

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that all Jordanians taking part in a World Scouts Jamboree in Australia were safe after a violent electrical storm with high winds, thunder and lightning last Saturday.

Some 15,000 scouts from 98 countries including Jordan, are taking part in the 16th World Jamboree, the first-ever held in the southern hemisphere.

Agricultural panel voices support for farmers in occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — A conference on coordination of agricultural policies in the Arab World just concluded in Cairo has issued a statement expressing concern over the agricultural situation in the occupied Arab territories and the adverse effect of Israeli practices on Arab farmers, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said Tuesday.

The minister, in a statement upon his return from the Cairo conference, said that delegates to the meeting voiced support for Palestinian farmers to maintain their steadfastness against the Israeli occupation.

The three-day conference discussed exchanging information on agriculture and ways to increase the volume of agricultural trade among Arab states, in order to ensure food security for the Arab World.

Mr. Hmoud said in his statement that the delegates, who represented 14 Arab countries, recommended the formation of an Arab bank to offer loans in all Arab countries for encouraging farmers to increase their output and for promoting agricultural trade.

He said that the delegates also recommended that Arab states coordinate their agricultural policies with regard to marketing crops and the use of modern techniques in farming.

The conference also called for promoting the work of the Arab Common Market, so as to enable it to develop efficient marketing systems and find means for protecting Arab states from the negative effects of fluctuations in world markets, according to Mr. Hmoud.

The minister said that the delegates called on Arab governments to encourage joint agricultural exhibitions, and to set up an association of Arab exporters entrusted with the task of coordinating agricultural trade among Arab countries.

In addition, the conference recommended an assessment of the actual food shortage in the Arab World and a prediction of shortages which might occur in the future, so that programmes can be designed to address these shortages, Mr. Hmoud noted.

He said that the conference also suggested that Arab states provide training to Arab personnel for collect and evaluate agricultural statistics, and that Arab countries should adopt unified agricultural standards and statistical systems.

Amman council approves recommendations of streets naming and numbering committee

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipal Council Tuesday discussed a memorandum presented by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh on the recommendations of the streets naming and numbering committee and approved the measures as they appeared in the memo.

The council also listened to a briefing by Mr. Rawabdeh on the municipality's achievements in 1987.

Meanwhile, a special technical committee in charge of implementing a comprehensive development plan for Greater Amman approved the final recommendations prepared by a special working team which conducted studies on developing downtown Amman.

During a meeting held under the chairmanship of Mr. Rawabdeh, the council discussed the development of the Al Rujeib area, which lacks sufficient services and which suffers from poor planning. The team proposed that the area be classified into sectors — agricultural, residential, industrial and services.

Mr. Rawabdeh stressed that the municipality will continue to cooperate with government ministries and public institutions operating in Greater Amman in carrying out the comprehensive development plan. This cooperation is in line with the government's five-year development plan, according to Mr. Rawabdeh.

Municipality opens two new markets

As a part of efforts to develop the city, the Greater Amman Municipality is opening two new open-air markets in Amman, adding to the existing three markets. Mr. Rawabdeh said that a new market will be opened at the Abu Nuseir housing estate near Jubeiba on Fridays. Another market will be opened in the Nasr district of eastern Amman on Tuesdays, according to Mr. Rawabdeh.

At present, Amman citizens benefit from three open-air markets held at Abdali on Mondays, Third Circle of Jabal Amman on Thursdays and in Marka on Sundays.

These markets, which offer products at prices lower than those in stores, are open from six in the morning until six in the evening.

The new markets will open immediately on the specified days.

Jordanian oil shale test burn conducted in Finland

AMMAN (J.T.) — Oil shale extracted from the Sultani area south of Qatana is being burned under the watchful eyes of Jordanian and Finnish fuel experts in Finland this week.

The week-long test burn culminates several years' efforts to explore the feasibility of using this plentiful natural resource as a fuel for power generation.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has contributed \$437,000 to finance the feasibility study and the shipping of the sample for the test from Sultani via Aqaba to Helsinki. This figure also defrays some of the

travel costs of National Resources Authority (NRA) officials who are observing the test burn in Karhula, Finland, this week, as well as the designs for the pilot plant, boiler and full scale power plant.

Beneath the "overburden" of desert soil in the Sultani region lies an equally thick layer of solid black rock — a rock rich in carbon and with the smell of fuel oil or kerosene. The NRA estimates the deposit at 1.3 billion tonnes.

During the summer, the authority's mining group removed nearly one-half million cubic

metres of soil overburden to take a 400-tonne sample of rock from several locations at the north end of the deposit. These samples were crushed and blended and a 75-tonne sample was shipped to Finland.

The test burn, which began Jan. 11, uses a recently developed technology that burns the fuel in the crushed rock itself, and eliminates the process of first extracting the fuel oil from the rock.

Results of the burn will be used to design a 20-megawatt pilot plant, and a full scale boiler for a 100-megawatt power plant to operate here using the Sultani and Attarat shales.

Illiteracy in occupied territories persists as result of Israel's economic repression

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education says that nearly 35 per cent of the people in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip are illiterate, and this is mainly due to the flight of children from schools due to the very difficult economic conditions resulting from occupation rule.

Tawfik Tiliawi, member of a higher committee on the eradication of illiteracy in the occupied areas said that children most often abandon their classes to assist their families in collecting crops or to work in factories, in order to help support their families. Mr. Tiliawi added that the voluntary and charitable societies which provide education to the illiterate in the occupied territories lack proper funds for carrying out their work.

He said that these societies receive only JD 15,000 from the

Jordanian government and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), far less than the JD 150,000 required to execute an annual literacy programme throughout the occupied territories.

In all, there are 110 literacy centres in the occupied West Bank, offering education to 2,227 people through 90 teachers. In Gaza, there are 123 centres employing 11 teachers, according to Mr. Tiliawi.

Mr. Tiliawi noted that from the occupation of Arab land in 1967 until 1977, charitable and voluntary societies were solely responsible for providing education to the illiterate people in the occupied territories. But in 1977, GUVS began to assist the literacy programmes and cooperated with the Jordanian government in organising its assistance. Before

the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, this task was carried out by the Ministry of Education, which still carries out literacy programmes in the East Bank, Mr. Tiliawi said.

Mr. Tiliawi said that Jordan observed the Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy on Jan. 8 in implementation of an Arab League decision; but he noted that Jordan had initiated a programme for eradicating illiteracy in the Kingdom in 1953.

Last September, the Ministry of Education said that 26 per cent of the population in the East Bank of Jordan was illiterate but in a statement marking the Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy, the ministry said that the number of illiterate was increasing due to greater public awareness of the issue and the diligent efforts of all concerned authorities.

Damascus reports positive outcome

(Continued from page 1)

On other diplomatic issues, Mr. Salman said relations between Damascus and Washington could improve if the United States adopted a policy of dialogue rather than threats of force.

He said there were no new developments in relations between Syria and Britain, broken in 1986 after London accused Damascus of complicity in an alleged plot to blow up an Israeli

airliner.

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, prime minister and head of the British-Israeli Friendship Association, severed relations under the threat of false accusations.

"This was meant to intimidate us and press on us to change our political line. But this attempt was a total failure and Britain became isolated and unable to participate in efforts to solve the Middle East issue," Mr. Salman said.

Moscow reviewing Israeli request

(Continued from page 1)

Europe on business.

In the Hague, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said Tuesday that the current Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip might have dimmed prospects for renewed Soviet-Israeli ties.

Mr. Van den Broek told reporters at a briefing that the Netherlands had long urged Moscow to renew diplomatic ties with Israel.

He said the protests in the occupied territories could worsen

prospects for better links between the two countries, adding that he hoped this would not be the case.

In Athens, Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias condemned Israel for the use of armed violence against Palestinians.

In a statement to a group of Arab diplomats he said the Greek government was "seriously concerned over the use of armed violence against the population of the occupied territories which has resulted in a large number of victims."

Mubarak praises Syria

(Continued from page 1)

continues to strongly oppose Egypt's relations with Israel and has so far blocked efforts to readmit Cairo to the Arab League.

Mr. Mubarak said he had not met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad since the Islamic summit in Kuwait in January last year.

He described reported contacts between the two countries as "pure speculation." But he said: "I am sad about the lack of such contacts."

After the Gulf tour, Mr. Mubarak is scheduled to visit the United States and Western Europe to discuss the Gulf crisis as well as efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Mubarak said that a solution to the Palestinian problem "will not materialise except through an international peace conference attended by all concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

Lower House endorses penal code amendments entailing harsher penalties

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — People convicted of rape, fraud, adultery and incest will receive harsher punishments following the endorsement Tuesday of amendments to the 1960 penal code by the Lower House of Parliament.

Under these revisions, the prison sentences for all of these crimes, in addition to those who issue cheques without sufficient funds were doubled.

Also under the amendments, for the first time in the history of Jordan's legal code, rapists of girls under 15 years of age will be executed. This represents a dramatic change from the previous punishment, which entailed a short-term hard labour sentence of not less than seven years.

Irbid Deputy Nader Abu Sha'er said he was against execution as a sentence for this crime, since anyone who would rape a girl under 15 years of age must be "mentally ill." Dr. Abu Sha'er, who won his seat two years ago, said a 10-year prison term would be sufficient.

But the general trend among deputies during Tuesday's one-hour session was welcome acceptance of more stringent penalties to make any potential offender think twice before he or she violates the law.

Contrary to the previous procedure, one of the amendments provided for suspended sentences for crimes that would usually get a less than one year imprisonment.

These amendments will become effective after the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) agrees to them and a Royal Decree is issued, enacting the changes.

These revisions follow a reported increase of crimes in Jordan throughout the past three years, as well as several calls made by deputies and legal authorities for stricter penalties for crimes, in general, and rape, in particular.

"Due to the complexity and sensitivity" of this legislation, the Ministry of Justice spent nearly two years to incorporate all of these modifications before presenting them to Parliament.

During Tuesday's session, the lawmakers also endorsed modifications to the Zakat (alms for the poor). At the outset of the meeting, Bethlehem Deputy Carlos Dhimis called for true and comprehensive cooperation among frontline countries (Jordan, Syria and Lebanon), other Arab states with strategic depth and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on hammering out a strategy to support the Palestinian uprising against Israel's iron fist policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These parties, Dr. Dhimis said, should shoulder their historical responsibilities by supporting the uprising in the occupied territories through financial, moral and political means.

Amendments to some of the legal codes — especially those dealing with adultery — were attacked by Irbid Deputy Ahmad Al Kofahi, who called for the enforcement of the Islamic law (sharia). "Adultery is one of the

most outrageous crimes in Islam. Penalties for that crime are specially dealt with in the sharia," said Dr. Kofahi, who also urged the House not to pass this legislation. "Approving this code clashes with sharia, the constitution and logic," he continued.

Dr. Kofahi's suggestion was supported by Deputy Yusef Al Athem from Ma'an. "We approve of what was said by Dr. Kofahi, and we welcome all what is included in Islam," he said.

According to the amendments, acts of adultery among parents and their children, including half and step fathers and mothers, in-laws, uncles and aunts would be punished by short-term hard labour sentence for a period not exceeding the seven years. The previous sentence was a two to three-year prison term.

Reiterating his stated position, Dr. Kofahi called for the "Islamisation" of all aspects of Jordanian life — education, information, jihad, dissemination of information and culture. "I call on both the executive and legislative branches to work together in order to complete the cycle of Islamisation," Dr. Kofahi said in remarks read from a prepared statement.

Another amendment stipulates that anyone who has sexual intercourse with a female either through force and coercion or through deception (rape) will be imprisoned for a period not less than 10 years with hard labour. The previous sentence for such a case was not less than 5 years imprisonment.

Anyone who forcefully has intercourse with a female who suffers from a physical or mental handicap or general weakness will be detained for a period of not less than 10 years, instead of receiving a short-term labour sentence.

In such cases, Justice Minister Riyad Shaka'a told the Jordan Times, the disability or weakness of the victim would be proved by specialised physicians.

Though the amendments did not tackle general rape cases — where offenders are not members of victim's family — or crimes of male honour, the general feeling among a number of lawmakers was "great satisfaction" over the passage of these changes in view of the increasing rate of crime in Jordan.

The Ministry of Justice could not provide any figures on crimes committed in the country in 1987, nor could it disclose any percentages on the most frequently committed crimes.

But according to figures obtained from the Interior Ministry, crimes rose by 14 per cent from 1985 to 1986. A total of 18,062 crimes of all kinds were committed in Jordan in 1986. Of these, 4,288 cases involved murder, rape, robbery and pickpocketing.

Israel bars Goulding from camps, prepares for expulsions

(Continued from page 1)

were later allowed into Jabalya after a clash in which troops shot and wounded two Palestinian protesters, the diplomats said.

The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, had warned Israel would not cooperate with Mr. Goulding's mission to study ways of protecting the 1.5 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

The envoy was sent here after a Security Council resolution deplored the Israeli army's use of force to quell the most serious uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since Israel occupied the areas in 1967.

More than 250 Palestinians have been wounded by army gunfire and at least 2,000 have been arrested since the protests began on Dec. 9.

Israel rejected both the Security Council resolution and the appeal not to deport Palestinians whom it believes incited the current protests.

A senior U.N. official said that if Israel went ahead with the first expulsions while Mr. Goulding was still in the region "the timing would obviously be provocative."

Israel army radio said the final expulsion orders on the first four deportees were expected to be signed soon.

evidence against them were repeatedly denied, their lawyers said Tuesday.

Israel's southern military commander rejected appeals by four other Palestinians from the Gaza Strip against deportation orders.

Egypt, Jordan and Syria have refused to accept the deportees. Israeli newspapers said Israel's only option was to expel them through Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, suggested to parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee that Jordan might take over the Gaza Strip.

At a meeting with Mr. Goulding, former Gaza Mayor Rashid Shawah said the people of the Gaza Strip had revolted out of despair.

Israeli military censors barred journalists from reporting when, where or how the Palestinian activists would be expelled.

In Baghdad, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Tuesday demonstrators in the Gaza Strip had attacked the headquarters of the Israeli governor in the town of Jabalya.

"The demonstrators attacked and broke through the headquarters on Monday in retaliation for the shooting of some of their colleagues by Israeli soldiers in the town," Bassam Abu Sherif, advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told Reuters.

etings. Total crimes in 1985 and 1984 were 16,341 and 16,215, respectively.

The figures also showed that in 1986, 59 murders were committed and 23 cases of rape were reported, compared with 81 murders and 29 rape cases in 1985, and 70 murders and 21 cases of rape in 1984.

Moreover, the actual figures of rape cases and murders could actually be higher than the official count, since in many cases and for social reasons, parents of rape or murder victims do not contact the police.

Revisions to the penal code also introduced new penalties for industrialists and heads of workshops who neglect to post signs and provide equipment for occupational emergencies. They will be imprisoned for a period of three months to two years, in some cases with fines ranging between JD 100 to JD 200. Previous penalties included imprisonment from one month to two years and fines between JD 10 and JD 50.

Observers hope that modifications introduced to clauses dealing penalties for issuing bad cheques will minimise these acts, which have been on the rise following the regional and local recession, and because the majority of banks were lenient in issuing cheque books to customers who could not provide certification of financial stability. Such offenders will receive one to three-year prison terms and fines ranging from JD 100 to JD 200.

Violations falling under this category of sentencing are: if the offender writes a cheque without sufficient funds; if he or she withdraws the bank deposit that would have covered the sum contained in the cheque after having issued the cheque; if the offender asked the beneficiary to refrain from cashing that cheque; if he or she endorsed a cheque to someone else or gave them a cheque while knowing in advance that the issuer did not have sufficient funds to cover it, or if he or she already knew that the cheque was non-refundable; and, if the offender issued a cheque or signed it in a way that made it impossible to cash.

Following the session, the members of the House committees on foreign affairs, administrative affairs, education, agriculture, occupied territories affairs and national guidance and tourism met.

Following is a breakdown of the chairman and the rapporteur of each of the five committees: Committee on Foreign Affairs: Rizk Al Bataineh (chairman); Committee on Administrative Affairs: Zuhair Thounan Al Hussein (chairman); Committee on Education: Fawzi Shaker Tawameh (chairman); Committee on National Guidance and Tourism: Farab Abu Jaber (chairman); Edward Khamis (rapporteur).

He gave no further details of the incident.

United Nations workers in the Gaza Strip said Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian demonstrator and wounded two others at the Jabalya refugee camp during protests there Monday.

Israeli officials denied the PLO report.

Abu Sherif said Israeli troops killed another Palestinian Tuesday and wounded 32.

"Shamir and his forces are using barbaric tactics against the Palestinians similar to those used by the Nazis in World War II," he said.

He appealed to members of the Arab League "to move urgently and actively, not by mere words, to support the Palestinian people and use their international relations and economic potential in this respect."

In the Rafah incident Monday, Israeli army radio said people armed with knives attacked an army patrol that tried to force the attackers back with smoke bombs.

Protests were reported in the occupied West Bank. Stores were shut in Gaza City and Arab Jerusalem in a three-day general strike that began Sunday.

The Palestine Press Service, which monitors events in the occupied territories, said a Palestinian demonstrator was struck by a rubber bullet and a soldier hit by a rock during a clash in Hebron.

Jordan Times

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Shamir must be joking

THE best that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir could come up with to deal with the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is the ludicrous proposal to hold an international conference on the Palestinian refugee camps. Shamir's vision of peace in the Middle East, thus rests on a welfare kind of conference, with the principal objectives being to feed and house the Palestinian refugees who are still living in squalid conditions. Moreover, Shamir's master plan for this bizarre conference idea envisages the oil-producing Arab countries footing the bill and, thus, relieving the conscience of humanity from its responsibility towards the Palestinian refugees. And with the dissipation of the Palestinian refugees from their existing camps, Mr. Shamir concludes, the whole Palestinian problem would disappear, and peace and tranquillity would reign supreme in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Clearly, Mr. Shamir and company have strained badly to come up with such a plan, which is completely detached from the basic reality of a people's yearning for liberation and self-rule. Mr. Shamir obviously needs urgent tutoring on elementary political principles which are enshrined in international law and the United Nations Charter, and various U.N. resolutions about emancipation, human rights and self-determination. Mr. Shamir has forgotten, or pretends to forget, the cardinal principle that men and women do not live on bread alone, and that their needs for liberty, self-rule and self-expression are so basic that they are always prepared to fight to the end to attain them.

Only when Israel, whether through the existing coalition government or another, recognises that the Palestinian people living under occupation must be accorded the political rights that Israel itself has attained through aggression and violence, will there be genuine, lasting peace between Arabs and Israelis. Surely, it must have dawned on the Israeli leaders that the Palestinian case is not just a refugee problem? Until there is profound recognition by the Israelis of the true magnitude of the Palestinian case, the Palestinian people will be left with no alternative but to continue their struggle to attain their inalienable rights. Mr. Shamir's proposal to hold a conference on the Palestinian refugee camps is a joke.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Uprising alarms Israelis

THE uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip which entered its second month is causing great alarm inside Israel. The Israelis feel that the military successes of their armed forces in the past years against the Arabs have not succeeded in fusing sufficient strength in the occupation authorities' drive to quell the present revolt. The Israelis have come to realise that the peace formula their leaders had intended to impose on the Arabs has become impossible to achieve and that genuine peace requires an end to occupation and the use of force; and can never be achieved through iron fist policies. Over the past weeks the Israelis discovered that they are being besieged by hatred and that Israel's boundaries cannot extend to wherever their army's tanks can reach as professed by Ariel Sharon. These Israelis are now wondering about condemnation from world nations even from Israel's allies and friends. The present Arab revolt and the stones thrown at the Israeli troops are only humble forms of expression by the Arabs for their rejection of occupation and repression. This simple form which has been countered with bullets has succeeded in cornering the Israeli leadership and attracting world nations' attention to the plight of the Palestinian people. After 40 years of the establishment of the Jewish state and following 20 years of occupation, the Israelis are still wondering about the shape of their own future.

Al Dustour: Israeli oppression escalates

FEELING that they have lost control over the situation in the occupied Arab territories, Israeli troops and their commanders have now embarked on a campaign of mass killings of innocent people. The brutal attacks on the civilians is unprecedented in Israel's 20 years of rule in the Arab territories, and can only indicate the loss of self confidence and inability to confront the Arab wrath. The Israeli troops are employing any thing they have under their control to kill, injure and maim the Arab youths who are fighting back with stones and hands. The soldiers are confronting people seeking freedom and legitimate right in their homeland usurped from them 20 years ago. The massacres committed by the Israeli troops and their inhuman practices against the Arab detainees seem to have failed to stifle the resistance or deter the Arabs from pursuing their revolt in the towns and refugee camps. The Israelis feel they are being isolated from the rest of the world community as the revolt continues, and the Israeli leaders feel they are being besieged by hatred for their practices and their atrocities. This feeling seems to be driving the Israelis to commit more crimes. We bow with respect to the Arab people rising against injustice, and we pay tribute to the martyrs who fell in defence of freedom. But we also believe that this is a good chance for Arab governments to escalate their campaign worldwide to expose Israel's actions and force it to respond to the call of reason.

Sawt Al Shaab: High quality products

THE government is giving due care and support to the national industry, helping it to develop and expand and contribute to the strengthening of the national economy. The government's support is met with full cooperation on the part of Jordanian industrialists and businessmen who through their hard work have laid down the foundation for a successful industry in which we all take pride. But it should be said that Jordan's national industry could not have progressed and flourished had it not maintained its good quality and conformed with international sets of specifications and standards. Statements by the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry about preservation of the high quality of Jordan's industrial products are cause of optimism for us all. The chamber's president seems to be determined to maintain a strong relationship between the private and public sectors and to promote marketing of Jordanian products abroad. We are hopeful that our national industry will continue to flourish and will expand to absorb unemployed Jordanians, and so help solve part of the Jordanian society's problems.

Haj Khamis and 8084

By Nayef S. Zubi

THE statistics disclosed by the prime minister in his March interview with the editors of major newspapers, indicate that we have in Jordan 8084 foreign domestic servants, coming mainly from Sri Lanka and the Philippines. That means 13 out of every 1,000 households employ a foreign domestic servant.

The aggregate annual wages as suggested by the prime minister are close to JD 20 million. Half of this amount is paid in foreign exchange. This brings the effective monthly wage rate, a domestic servant commands, to JD 200.

For Haj Khamis — the owner of a grocery store in Amman, who has no training in statistics or econometrics and who has no training in the application of statistical methods to the study of economic data and problems — these statistics, as well as many others released from time to time, are "Mego" numbers. "Mego", a short hand for "My Eyes Glaze Over." After all, econometrics assures us a steady supply of Ph. Ds in economics. The Haj is no member of the club.

The Haj understands the economic realities of domestic servants in a much simpler language. He understands them much better without graphs, tables, numbers, and citations. The Haj's world is plain commonsense. His conclusions are plain intuitive.

Economics as we know it is a study of the markets. We are all participants. We are, after all, economic men and women. Economics would only be relevant if and only if it can capture the actions of the market participants, and put them into sensible propositions, models, and theories.

Haj Khamis' neighbour's wife is a physician in a government hospital. For his neighbour's wife, Cauty, her domestic servant from Sri Lanka is not a "veblen" good. From Haj Khamis' perspective, Cauty allows her neighbour the opportunity to provide her services, which is definitely valued higher — in the absence of distortions in the local wage structure — than the services of her domestic servant. Simple arithmetic tells us that from an economic perspective this is not a bad trade at all. One does not ask a brain surgeon to abstain from performing his marginal operation, to fence his backyard because there is some bureaucrats out there who wants to put restriction on importing the services of cheap labour.

The point that was eloquently made by Haj Khamis is this: Foreign domestic servants allow the release of relatively higher market valued labour services. From an economic perspective, if the released labour services are valued at a higher price in comparison to the price domestic servant services, added to its, any other implicit costs — social inconvenience, etc. — then this activity should be encouraged.

Haj Khamis understood that the scarcity of native domestic servants in Jordan and the rising demand for such service could be partly explained by the huge investment that Jordan (private and government sectors alike) has made in human capital during the last three decades. Education and training levels continued to rise. The oil boom of the 1970's came about to reinforce this trend.

The combination of the two factors — investment in human capital and the oil boom — meant that Jordanians, especially women, were able to develop skills that were in high demand both locally and regionally. And that meant the value of the time for those women cannot be satisfied by the wages provided in the domestic servant-market, nor such jobs can satisfy the new social

status that accompany such newly acquired education levels. With women entering more and more into the labour market, the demand for domestic servants was bound to rise. This demand, in the absence of locally supplied services should by definition be satisfied through importing domestic servants from abroad. Otherwise bidding the wages of native domestic servants will follow. Importing foreign domestic servants was what exactly happened to satisfy rising demands.

Also, one could rightly argue, that as real income rises — the case in Jordan over the last three decades and especially in the 1970's — the demand for leisure arise. Leisure being as my fellow economists like to call it, a superior good — a superior good is one whose demand rises with rising income — will be valued more as the overall level of income rises. Higher demand for leisure meant higher demand for domestic servants.

That we have an economic theory that explains an economic activity, does not tell whether this activity, as a matter of policy, should be encouraged, or not. And there, where Haj Khamis understood it intuitively and taught me my economics. The distinction between what economists call positive economics — describing the economic phenomenon as is — and normative economics — asking what it ought to be — is what is at stake here.

In a well functioning economy, the economic argument for domestic servants is simple. It's implications are crystal clear. If the services released are valued at higher market prices compared to those of domestic services, added to these prices any other costs: Social, inconvenience, etc., then the activity should be encouraged. Is this the case in Jordan? Does the employment of 8084 foreign domestic servants at a cost of JD 20 million (JD 10 million of which is paid in dollars) and the resulting release of the services of 8084 physicians, engineers, educators, lawyers, etc. make us better off in economic terms. The government actions that raised the monthly fees on domestic servants by 7 JDs suggest a belief in it's part that there exists distortion in the structure of domestic wages, and probably misalignment in the exchange rates. Both problems: The distortion in the wage structure and the misalignment in the exchange rate could keep standards of living at an artificially high levels. These levels are both unwarranted and undefensible based on economic fundamentals. I tend to sympathise with this view, though I give much more weight to the distortions in the wage structure argument.

Raising taxes on the services of domestic servants, simply translates to lowering the effective wages of households employing such services. This is an indirect solution, to a direct problem. It will add more wrinkles to an already distorted domestic wage structure. The domestic wages of professionals — mainly due to the strength of their professional associations — are not defensible on economic basis. They are isolated from the forces of the supply and demand. They continue to remind us of the legacy of the past: The 1970's.

If the market forces were at work here, then the basic laws of supply and demand will force domestic wages down. That will knock down the illusions of maintaining indefinitely nondefensible standards of living. The number of domestic servants will soon fall. One can safely assume that rational men and women would only engage in profitable trades. One does not give up a JD 200 for

another that pays JD 150.

My friend, Haj Khamis, understood all that. I admit that he did not use the Arabic word for distortion, when discussing the continuous ability of Jordanian households to maintain over 8000 domestic servants under the current slow down. His vocabulary is much simpler. He puts it in a much easier language. His grocery store business is subject to the law of supply and demand, but not the wages of his neighbour (the physician at a government hospital). The shelves in his grocery store attest to the economic slow down, but not the wages of his neighbour.

The oil boom of the 1970's created the illusion of the possibility of sustaining high levels of growth, high levels of the standard of living, without the need for surgical changes in the economy. Hard choices and decisions were delayed. The 1980's and the current slow down makes changes even harder to implement than ever. The welfare state of the 1970's can not be dismantled easily. In fact, the 1980's witnessed quite the reverse. That only meant that indirect measures continued to be preferable to direct ones.

The government is well advised to attack a direct problem, with direct measures. Taxes on domestic servants could reduce the overall aggregate demand for domestic servants. Operating a minor surgery to the effective wage structure, is hardly the solution. Adding more distortions, is no solution to the problem. Direct solutions should be directed towards allowing the market forces to adjust domestic wage structure.

It doesn't make sense to me that an economy can allow the government's budget to support a \$65,000 a year for an engineer, while at the same time allocates less than \$15,000 a year for a professor in business finance. The irony is, the supply outstrips the demand in the first market. It is quite the reverse in the second. For example, I was not surprised to receive by mail an advertisement made by the "Institute for Resource Development Inc.," an American firm, seeking a candidate to teach business finance at the University of Jordan. The candidate is to receive a compensation that is tied to U.S. wage standards, which could come close to over \$80,000. It is not a surprise that we do not have a Jordanian who could fill the job. In the absence of the right incentive structure, the waste brought about by the misallocation of resources would be of unthinkable dimensions.

While economic aspects of the problem are important, one should also consider social and political factors as well. They are rather important.

A large number of our children are being attended by foreign domestic servants. These domestic servants are uneducated, socially and economically deprived. They hold different community values. These are recipe for problems. They raise legitimate concerns.

Our universities and research centres are called upon to study the problem. A research agenda could include studying the differences in behaviour, social attitude, etc. among our children under two sets of conditions: One with foreign domestic servants present, and another with their absence.

The scope of the problem goes beyond the market for domestic servants. Economics, the theory of choice, can still guide our policy far beyond the market aspect of the problem. Implementing a sound policy is the action of calm heads, and not burning emotions.

Uprising threatens authority of traditional leaders

Revolt against occupation hardens Israelis' stance

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A month of uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has hardened attitudes among both Israelis and Palestinians, making a solution to their conflict appear more distant than ever.

Most Israelis, reflecting the government's iron fist policy, regard the uprising, in which 32 Palestinians have been killed and more than 200 wounded, as a law-and-order problem, opinion polls show.

Political commentators say the cycle of violence and repression could favour Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud Bloc in general elections due next November against the more dovish Labour Party led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

For many Palestinians, the wave of violent demonstrations has been a revolt against what they see as Arab neglect and excessive moderation towards Israel, as well as an attempt to mount a much tougher resistance to the occupation.

The uprising has undermined the authority of traditional West Bank and Gaza leaders and thrust to the fore an embittered younger generation, born under occupation and much less prepared to compromise with Israel.

"Those boys in the last month have been doing things we would never have thought possible," said Dr. Haidar Abdel Shafi, a veteran nationalist leader in Gaza. "They are confronting the military in a very brave, even reckless manner."

"It is very possible that this will be a new generation of leaders," he said.

The Israeli government has so far not tried to negotiate with the traditional leaders of the 1.5 million Palestinians in the territories it has occupied since 1967. Its appeals to conservative village mukhtars (head men) and local mayors to help restore calm have largely failed, while attempts by well-known Palestinian figures to translate the rebellion into political gains through such tactics as a boycott of Israeli consumer goods have so far also made little impact.

Among Israelis, an opinion poll taken two weeks after the uprising began on December 9 by the Yedioth Aharonoth newspaper showed 69 per cent felt the army was not tough enough on the protesters.

Only seven per cent thought Israeli security measures, condemned by the U.N. Security Council and criticised by the United States, Israel's closest ally, were too harsh.

Defence Minister Yitzhak

Rabin, on the hawkish wing of the Labour Party, has taken a hard line close to the Likud on the uprising, warning that Israel would use all "legal" force to crush the protests.

Only in recent days have some Labour figures, including Rabin, begun to hint that political initiatives will have to be taken to eradicate the causes of the uprising.

"The danger is that people will have nothing to lose, and because of the pressure on their families, the circle of hostility will expand all the more," Zeev Schiff, a respected Israeli military commentator, warned in the newspaper Haaretz.

Shamir has offered to reopen negotiations for "full autonomy" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as soon as the uprising stops.

The statement alarmed some ultra-nationalist Jewish settlers in the occupied areas, but Shamir has remained adamant that Israel will not give up sovereignty over one millimetre of the territories.

Neither Palestinian leaders nor neighbouring Arab states have shown any inclination to engage in autonomy negotiations and

Shamir remains steadfastly opposed to an international Middle East peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Abdel Shafi said leaders of the Gaza Strip, many close to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.), put several proposals to Israel's southern commander, General Yitzhak Mordechai, last month as a basis for discussion on ending the uprising.

"They did not even care to discuss anything like this," he said. "General Mordechai said these are political demands and he only dealt with security."

There has been no further meeting since then.

Doves such as former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, believe the mood in Israel may change if unrest in the territories and international condemnation of Israel's security policies continue.

More Israelis would come to see the folly of perpetuating Israel rule over a deeply hostile Palestinian population, he said.

But for the moment, Eban's sounds like a voice in the wilderness, and his optimism is not shared by any prominent Palestinians.

U.S., analysts worry about Palestinian uprising

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The current uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip represents a watershed in Arab-Israeli relations, according to U.S. officials and experts who are worried where the unrest will lead.

One Middle East expert, former defence official Harlan Ullman of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, went so far as to speculate that "Israel is facing a very strong possibility of civil war."

A senior U.S. official, and several other analysts interviewed by Reuters, felt that to be too extreme.

But they did agree that the past month of unrest, in which Israeli troops have shot dead at least 29 Palestinians, will prove to be a turning point for Israel.

"It does represent a much higher level of protest than they have encountered in the last 20 years of occupation in the West Bank and Gaza," said the U.S. official, who asked not to be identified.

"The fact that Israeli Arabs at one point joined in the protest

was a new and worrisome development for Israel," he added.

The involvement of young Palestinians was a profound change that reflected Arab "frustration about the unresolved occupation and the lack of any hope in their view of a settlement of this long-term dispute," the official said.

James Placke, a former deputy assistant secretary of state and now a private consultant, said that in past disturbances Israel could appeal to older Palestinian leaders to keep the youths in line.

"But the older generation of Palestinian leaders can't seem to get a handle on them this time either," he said.

Secretary of State George Shultz said last week the United States was upset by the protests and stressed the need for negotiations, saying violence never brought Middle East peace.

But he held out no hope that progress on Arab-Israeli talks could be made in the near future.

Last Tuesday, the United States joined in a U.N. Security Council resolution calling on Israel not to deport nine Palesti-

nians it has accused of inciting violence.

The resolution was passed unanimously and U.S. support for it was termed disappointing by Israel, stung by the rare public criticism implicit in the U.S. stance.

The U.S. official said the belief among some Israelis that Palestinians can be made to acquiesce in Israeli rule in the occupied territories was a delusion.

Other Israelis want to come to terms with Palestinian grievances "but they are frustrated that the Palestinians have not produced the kind of leadership with which they (Israelis) can deal," he said.

"Palestinians have been terribly served by the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) because instead of addressing the practical problems of Palestinians the PLO has been pursuing its own international political agenda, the official said.

The unrest — and Israel's violent reaction to it — has encouraged what some analysts say is a more sympathetic view in the United States of the Palestinian cause.

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Entrance to the Bank shelter, home to 550 displaced Palestinian refugees in West Beirut.

Two years in a Beirut basement

UNRWA Feature

THE dim yellow bulbs festooning a makeshift overhead lighting system were the closest the 126 families in West Beirut's "Bank Shelter" got to festive decorations this New Year's Eve in the bank basement garage that is their home and their protection.

The light is weak and the bulbs fade and glow without warning as the pirated main current waxes and wanes in a city where the only predictable aspect of the electricity supply is its very unpredictability. Still, in an underground shelter without natural light, the bare bulbs seem a great deal better than nothing.

Hostilities in the city meant that the unfinished building never housed its intended banking business, but its safe, bare underground garage proved a godsend for hundreds of Palestinian refugees displaced from their homes during the camps' wars of recent years in Beirut. For them, the concrete ramp down into the dark maw of the carpark entrance must have been a welcome sight indeed as refuge from the fighting, the shelling and the fear.

Many of the displaced families have been in the "Bank" for more than two years, but the numbers crowding the concrete shelter reached a peak early in 1987 with the siege of Shatila and Burj al Barajneh camps at its fiercest. At that time, UNRWA had to evacuate nearly 40 persons from the Bank shelter to give emergency treatment for lack of oxygen.

These days, however, the numbers using the Moussaithe Street shelter have stabilised at around 550 persons, allowing some form of bearable living conditions for the families using the two floors below street-level. For the likes of Khaled Ali Shibli, a 10-year-old refugee whose family has been on the move since 1975, the basement is a home of sorts, but scarcely homey.

"It's very dirty and there's no privacy," he says without enthusiasm. "I have nothing to do." He shrugs. "I don't feel like doing anything anyway." Khaled had his fill of excitement, and more, when he found himself trapped inside Shatila during the autumn fighting escalated unexpectedly.

His mother Maryam, 40 years of age, looks even more listless. She is pregnant and lies on a floor-mat, holding one of her youngest boys in her arms. Her only protection and privacy is the wall of blankets suspended from rope-lines which mark out her family's space.

What strikes the stranger entering the basement for the first time is the slight but pervasive sweet-sour stench hanging in the

stale air. UNRWA's water-tanks call regularly, but inevitably with hundreds of people living and sleeping such confined quarters, the odour of humanity lingers because there is only limited ventilation. And the fumes of heating oil and bottled cooking gas serve to sharpen the atmosphere.

There is little unused space underground, as ropes, wires and string have been fixed to every possible anchorage. Blankets hang down to form the walls of family units without the privacy of ceilings.

UNRWA medical teams visit

There is a small clinic which is used by UNRWA's mobile medical teams when they visit the Bank shelter but the rasping coughs of children and the occasional wheezing of an adult are testimony to the respiratory problems caused by living in cold, concrete-walled conditions. Yet, most of the refugees look healthy and it is obvious that hunger is not a problem, given the supplies of basic rations provided by UNRWA. Earlier this year, the agency also provided families with more substantial mattresses to counter the hard flooring of their basement home.

As yet, UNRWA cannot provide what most of the displaced

would most dearly wish — a return to their former homes to be near family and friends. They must make do with those small possessions snatched as they fled: Here and there in the dimly lit basement, a framed picture or a pendulum clock hangs proudly on a wall; a fragment of mirror flanked by plastic brush or comb forms grooming facilities. Those with metal pots and pans keep them hoarded, gleaming clean.

Darar Borjas, who will be 50 years old in 1988, shares a tiny, blanket-shrouded unit of the Bank shelter with her two teenage daughters. She used to live in Shatila's Gaza Building with perhaps 200 other families, but fled the fighting last year. For a while she had work as a domestic servant but lost that, too, and is now dependent on UNRWA for her survival.

There is no doubt about her most valued possessions. She carries them with her always in a plastic wallet. They are the photographs of her husband and three sons, and their memory is what she clings to in the yellow glow of the bulbs suspended above her in this underground garage. She tells her story with emotion but without hysteria: Six years ago, the three boys were kidnapped in West Beirut and have not been seen since; and two years ago her husband was shot dead outside Shatila camp.



(Above and below) Suspended blankets mark a family's space in the underground garage.

Turkey eyes Istanbul's pot of gold

By Hugh Pope
Reuters

ISTANBUL — Behind a gloomy archway leading to Istanbul's sprawling covered bazaar lies a glittering array of gold — enough, economists say, to help pay for Turkey's industrial modernisation.

Set amid muddy market alleys and grey Ottoman mosques, the bazaar's immaculate gold boutiques display items representing only the tip of a small gold mountain in the country.

Economists reckon that over the centuries Turks have tucked away at least 500 tonnes of gold for fear of bad times ahead and that now that hoard is worth more than \$8 billion.

"The gold is only useful if it can be turned into foreign currency. People must stop being scared of paper money," said Professor Emre Gonenay, whose own estimate is 3,000 tonnes of gold spread among Turkey's 52 million people.

Government officials hope to mobilise this capital both to pay

for industrial investment and to stop Turkey's \$33.1 billion foreign debt from rising further.

The Turkish central bank and gold traders here are studying how to set up an over-the-counter gold exchange this year to increase liquidity and perhaps attract foreign investment.

"If currency and gold flow freely, then there would be a big foreign interest and arbitrage would be attracted," said Leslie Edgar of London gold dealers Sharps Pixie.

Turkey has no gold mines but opened its first silver mine in December with an annual production goal of 120 tonnes. Part of this would be traded on the exchange, said Muharrem Ozulu, president of Istanbul's Jewellers and Gold Traders Association.

These goals may seem lofty in the bazaar, an Aladdin's cave where tourists haggle for silver trinkets or buy Tarsist Russian rubles and women bargain for chunky gold necklaces.

Perhaps 10,000 ounces of gold changes hands daily in Turkey, dealers say, a respectable but

small amount compared to markets such as those in London, Zurich or New York.

Turkish gold demand, mostly for jewellery, was 100 tonnes in 1986, about half of India's and a fifth of Japan's demand.

But a gold exchange is part and parcel of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's liberalisation of capital markets since 1983. Central bank officials say it will follow the flotation of the Turkish lira tentatively set for March.

"Ozal wants the exchange to help make Istanbul the major Middle East financial centre," said gold dealer Oguz Peker. "We want it to be able to import gold freely and legally."

The central bank, the sole legal source, sells 20 to 80 kilograms net into the market a day. But dealers reckon 10 times as much is smuggled in aboard trucks, speedboats, aircraft or even across border minefields on mules.

"A gold exchange would solve this problem," Peker said.

Gold dealers also say the time has come for them to start paying

dues, like the value-added tax — a tax on goods and services levied at all stages of production and ultimately borne by the consumer — which was introduced by Ozal and has taken root in the retail and manufacturing sector.

"We want this government to do well and stabilise Turkey. Also, smugglers don't give invoices. What do we say when the inspector comes round?" said one.

Ozulu said a disused bank vault near the bazaar had been found for the exchange.

Gold prices in the bazaar already respond to foreign markets and world currency rates.

But the bulk of Turkey's gold is spread wide and thin, from rich Istanbul merchants' wives to Anatolian peasant families whose wealth and social status is measured in gold and also serves as an emergency reserve.

Ozal will have a tough time persuading them that the turbulent years are over and that stocks, bonds or gold certificates are trustworthy, after a recent bonds crash and volatility on the

Istanbul stock exchange.

Ozulu said it would take at least another generation, but some dealers said they had already noticed a new attitude.

Speaking above the whirr of a banknote-counting machine, a seasoned bazaar dealer said revenue-sharing bonds, legal foreign currency accounts and high interest rates had already brought a 20 to 30 per cent drop in gold sales.

But he and other traders saw a bright future for gold retailers in their staple business — providing gold for the dowries of brides.

Appropriately, this would return the bazaar to its function before the 1950s, when families used to meet there to choose everything needed for a marriage — bed-linen, bridal dresses and the traditional gold gifts.

"I don't buy gold, I deposit my money in the bank," said Murat Caba, a steelworker home from a job abroad who was watching his family buy coins for a relative's wedding. "But the women have their say. Gold certificates would never do."

Britain stuns Europe's stray-eyed space plans

One outcome of a decision by Britain to stay on the sidelines in space exploration is that its aerospace industry will be barred from all but the most minor contracts, says Peter Marsh.

BRUSSELS — "Europe expects to be on top in industry and so it needs to invest in technology. The alternative is an agriculture economy."

It is with these sentiments that Sami Gazey, a senior manager at Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm, the West German aerospace company, greeted the decision in November by the 13-nation European Space Agency to spend \$13 billion by the end of the century on an ambitious series of manned space vehicles.

The programme is strongly supported by France, West Germany and Italy, which are Western Europe's three biggest spenders on space science and technology, but has been shunned, at least for the time being, by Britain.

The British argument is that manned space projects make little sense commercially, and are driven largely by prestige. British officials appear, however, to have been surprised by the degree to which the U.K. has been isolated from the other main European countries.

One outcome of London's decision to stay on the sidelines of the new programme is that Britain's aerospace industry will be barred from all but the most minor contracts related to the manned projects.

This is because under ESA rules, contracts are awarded to companies in specific countries not on a strictly competitive basis, but according to whether the nation's government is supporting the particular programme financially.

Gazey is happy because West Germany has agreed to contribute 38 per cent of the costs of Columbus, a manned laboratory for scientific experiments, which is one of the three big manned projects to go ahead after the ESA decision.

As a result of government backing, MBB will become lead contractor for the laboratory, which is due to plug in to a U.S.-led international space station planned for the 1990s.

Work on the \$4 billion Columbus due to begin in early 1988, with up to 100 aerospace companies around Europe employed on the project as subcontractors to MBB.

Gazey, head of MBB's Columbus division, expects his company to receive about \$550 million of ESA contracts directly and also be responsible for managing further contracts worth about four times this figure.

In addition to Columbus, the ESA is about to start a \$5 billion scheme to build Hermes, a mini space shuttle to service Columbus, and to spend \$4 billion on an improved version of its existing Ariane rocket, which will carry Hermes into orbit.

Gazey believes that Europe should take a long-term approach to space developments. "You can't always see the commercial objectives straightaway. But this applies in other areas of technology also. You may have to wait 100 years for an invention to become useful."

Eventually, however, Gazey thinks that the cash spent on Columbus will pay off in terms of new materials which are likely to be developed in the low gravity of the orbiting laboratory. These developments could benefit industries such as pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and metalwork-

ing. Another possible spin-off is snapshots of Earth taken from Columbus, which could be used in a variety of applications from monitoring crop growth to checking sites of missile silos.

For the immediate future, the most direct result of Columbus at MBB will be to secure the jobs of 150 people at the company who have worked, some of them for the past five years, on initial blueprints for the laboratory. Gazey expects to take on 400 more people for the project by 1991.

Jean-Marie Luton, head of the space division at Aerospatiale, France's biggest aerospace company, is also highly pleased about the ESA decision. Aerospatiale, which already builds the biggest and most important parts of the existing versions of Ariane, will become the prime contractor for Hermes and is also likely to take the lion's share of the work on the improved Ariane launcher, to be called Ariane-5.

Luton expects the 1,500 people working on space systems at Aerospatiale to grow by a third by 1991 as a result of the new work. He believes that the U.K. may miss out through taking too narrow an approach to space technology. "Hermes is the first stage to giving Europe the capability to organise manned space activities. The commercial benefits will come later, but probably not until the 21st century."

The point is reinforced by Francois Turck, commercial director of space activities at Matra, the French electronics company, which expects to be heavily involved in computer and data systems for all three of the ESA projects. He believes that work in space ultimately will have a significant impact in purely terrestrial activities including robotics, computer software and telecommunications.

In Britain, meanwhile, the official government position is that the U.K. will definitely not have a part in Hermes, but may join Ariane-5, possibly providing a few per cent of the development funds, if it can be proven that the rocket has a commercial future in the satellite launch market in the 1990s.

The U.K. may also join Columbus, assuming a satisfactory agreement can be worked out between ESA and the U.S. over European participation in the international space station. This agreement was due to have been signed several months ago, but negotiations on the issue are still bogged down over basic questions such as how the station should be managed once in orbit.

For the U.K.'s aerospace industry, lack of decisions means a prolonged period of nail-biting while it waits to see if its exclusion from the main manned ESA contracts will be permanent.

Bill Barbone, a director of Space Ventures, an umbrella group for U.K. space companies, says he is "a bit disappointed" at Britain's decision not to back any of the manned space schemes.

Peter Conchie, business development manager at British Aerospace, Britain's biggest space company, says he still hopes Britain will decide to participate in Columbus.

However, he is concerned about U.K.'s future position as a member of the European space community.

—Financial Times news feature.

You're only human — but don't blame your baboon ancestors

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuters

NEW YORK — The baboons of the African savannah have some lessons for humans:

Lesson one: Males are not naturally dominant.

Lesson two: Females are not naturally submissive.

Lesson three: When it comes to sex, "doing what comes naturally" would probably produce only laughable results.

These deductions are detailed in "Almost Human," a new book which is a study of Kenyan baboons by anthropologist Shirley Strum.

"I study baboons because I find people too complicated," Strum told Reuters in an interview. "But what she found about baboons was complicated enough, and largely contradictory to what she had read about them."

The accepted line about baboons — and to some extent, about people — was that males had the muscles, speed hormones that naturally made them the dominant sex, the centre of society. Females played a supportive role.

Armed with this knowledge, Strum headed for Kenya in 1972 to study a troop of baboons she dubbed "the pumphone gang" after a group of 1960s southern California surfers chronicled by journalist Tom Wolfe.

What she found surprised her. "It didn't take long to find out

that females were not like they were described... they were the core of the group, through their families they had power and influenced others," Strum said.

Interesting as the females were, Strum became fascinated with the males and the ways in which they differed from the baboons she had read about.

"It's like they went out and read the literature and decided to do exactly the opposite," Strum recalled.

"They didn't have a dominance hierarchy, although they were built for aggression. They didn't use aggression very much."

Their strategy, she found, was finesse and persistence.

Even though many of the adult males could have overpowered any of the grown females, strength was no guaranteed path to the baboon inner circle.

Instead, "a socially successful male might follow a desired female, being content for long periods just to sit near her. If the female was politically powerful, she could provide entree into the troop."

Females, for their part, could attain dominance through their families and could mediate, and sometimes prevent, quarrels.

However, females could be howlingly aggressive when provoked, often fighting more fiercely than males and sometimes sustaining more serious injuries when fighting among themselves than males did in their battles.

What does this mean about human aggression and dominance?

"That means that if we really do think that human males are indeed more aggressive than human females, then we can't throw up our hands and say it's our shared history and refer back to the precursors of humans," Strum said. "We're going to have to bring the question forward."

And what about baboons and sex?

Strum said the young members of the pumphone gang learned the facts of life just like humans do: On the equivalent of a Savannah street corner.

"May be the urge is there, but the basics of how do you approach, how do you mount, how do you copulate — all of that is learned by observation," she said. "By the time they're old enough for it to make a difference, they have the confidence."

Strum recognised that baboons may not be as close evolutionary kin to humans as chimps or other forest-dwelling primates, but she studied baboons because they lived in groups on the open grassland as the earliest people are thought to have done.

Born in Stuttgart, West Germany and educated at the University of California at Berkeley, Strum arrived in Kenya in 1972 armed with a doctorate in anthropology, but was determined not to be like other women researchers in Africa.

Worried patients take longer to recover

WORRYING and a feeling of guilt are among factors which delay the recovery of people being treated in hospital for injuries in accidents.

According to a recent study of more than 200 such patients in West Germany's Kiel University Hospital, those who felt they were themselves to blame for their accidents spent an average of 30 days in hospital, compared with an average of 20 days for those who did not consider they were to blame.

People who felt their accidents need not have happened also spent an average of 30 days in hospital, as against an average of 20 days for those who spent less time brooding and felt that their accidents would probably have happened whatever they had done.

Those who thought they were to blame for their accidents spent an average of 33 days in hospital, compared with an average of 20 days for those who did not consider they were to blame.

Worried patients took longer to heal and they often had a greater variety of serious complications. The more fretful victims of accidents also spent longer convalescing after leaving hospital.

On average, such people went back to work after an absence of 85 days if they thought it was solely up themselves to influence the speed at which they made their recovery.

Those who believed they could not influence their recovery in any way were absent from work for an average of 144 days.

People who said they enjoyed their jobs were on average back at work after 80 days, compared with 170 days' absence by those less enthusiastic about working.

All this research into the psychological factors relating to accident injuries was conducted by a team led by Professor Dieter Frey, head of the Department of Psychology at Kiel University, and including another psychologist and Professor Dieter Havemann, the head surgeon in the accident ward of the university's hospital.

As a result of the findings of this study, Prof. Frey believes that more psychologists should be employed in accident wards. This, he says, would tend to reduce the average time patients spend in hospital.

Prof. Frey is also supervising an AIDS research project planned to run for at least five years. In cooperation with hospitals in Bremen, Hanover and West Berlin, his team in Kiel is studying 500 HIV-positive patients, most of whom are only virus carriers and not yet suffering from the disease.

The researchers are trying to discover the extent to which psychological variables influence the condition of the immune system, the time it takes for this system to break down, the time taken for AIDS symptoms to occur, and how far a patient's life expectancy may depend on his state of mind.

The project is financed by the Schleswig-Holstein welfare and education ministries and the federal labour office — Lion Features.

Pyongyang to boycott Seoul games

TOKYO (Agencies) — North Korea will not attend the Seoul Olympic Games, the North Korean Olympic Committee said in a statement on Tuesday.

"We will not participate in the Olympic Games to be singly hosted by South Korea and... there is no possibility for us to present application for participation in the 24th Olympic Games," said the statement, carried by the country's official news agency KCNA and monitored in Tokyo.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch had left open the possibility of North Korea joining the games even after the official Jan. 17 deadline, but said it would not be easy after that date.

Samaranch has also considered banning countries which boycott the Seoul Summer Olympics from participating in the 1992 games.

The North Korean Olympic Committee said it had decided to stay away from the games because there had been no satisfactory agreement to its proposals to stage some of the events jointly with South Korea.

It said it would reconsider its decision if an agreement was

reached through a special North-South conference.

South Korea had accepted an IOC proposal that some or all of the archery, table tennis, women's volleyball, cycling and soccer events could be held in the North.

Pyongyang rejected the plan, saying it wanted more events. The often bitter exchanges engendered by the dispute had raised the spectre of a Soviet-led East Bloc boycott of the Seoul Olympics in support of North Korea.

However, the Soviet Union announced Monday it would be attending the games and China, which was an enthusiastic participant in the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, is almost certain to do the same this Friday.

That would leave North Korea isolated without any support from its two major Communist allies.

A record 153 nations have already said they will attend the games, including Communist

Laos and Soviet ally Mongolia.

If all nations attend, the Seoul Games will be the first Olympic confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union since the Montreal Summer Olympics in 1976, and the first to have averted a major boycott since Munich in 1972.

Soviet Olympic Committee Chairman Mariy Gramov said Monday that the question of North Korean participation had not influenced the Soviet decision to attend.

South Korean guarantees for the safety of Soviet athletes at the games had been a consideration, he said.

The South Korean government is expected to deploy huge security forces at the games, partly because it fears that the North may attempt to disrupt the event.

Meanwhile, South Korea said Tuesday it will allow Soviet passenger ships to use its ports during the Seoul Olympics in September, a newspaper said.

The Joong-Ang Daily News quoted port officials as saying Moscow had asked South Korea to allow five ships carrying more than 3,000 people into the southern port of Pusan and Incheon,

west of Seoul.

It said the Seoul government had given permission for the vessels to stay for about 10 days. Government officials refused to comment.

South Korea has no diplomatic links with any Communist country including the Soviet Union.

On Tuesday, Seoul hailed the Soviet Union's decision to take part in the Olympics and urged the Soviet Union to drop its demand to co-host the games.

Park Se-Jik, president of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee (SLOOC), said the Soviet Union's decision on Monday to take part would make the games a major success and help ease world tension.

In another development, South Korean officials appealed Tuesday to North Korea to reconsider its decision to boycott the games unless it is made a co-host along with Seoul.

SLOOC President Park Se-Jik and other South Korean officials made the appeal after the Soviet Union, North Korea's major ally, announced that it would enter the Olympics in Seoul.



Josef Schlickerrieder: as if the goal was 'nailed up'

W. German hockey players prepared, fit for winter games

MANNHEIM (INP) — Players of other teams have often thought that the Mannheim's goal has been "nailed up" this season in the National Ice-Hockey League. Goalminder for Mannheim is Josef Schlickerrieder — a young man with a martial appearance when he dons his garb — who is proving difficult to pass.

Schlickerrieder's defensive prowess and the goal-getting ability of his teammates have turned last season's weak Mannheim side into a genuine title contender.

At present, there is an exciting struggle for supremacy in the national league involving Mannheim, Rosenheim and reigning

champions Cologne although, Dusseldorf and Landshut from Lower Bavaria are also in with a chance.

All the five teams mentioned have one thing in common: They have all won the German championship in the past and have to put up with the high expectations of their fans.

The ice stadiums are full — above all, when the top clubs meet each other. For during the depths of the European winter, the fast and furious game on ice takes over for a time from Germany's number 1 national sport — soccer, which as a consequence, takes a break up until mid-February.

'Basketballer died of heart failure'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former basketball star Pete Maravich died last week because of an enlarged and weakened heart burdened with a continuous lack of oxygen to the heart muscle, the Los Angeles County Coroner's office has said.

The condition is rare and usually kills victims before they reach 20 years of age, doctors said.

"You're dealing here with the most rare of the rare," said Dr. Frank Litvak, associate director of the Heart Testing Lab at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Compounding that, said

Coroner's spokesman Bob Damacher, Maravich had no left coronary artery.

Maravich, the leading scorer in NCAA history and a member of the NBA Hall of Fame, collapsed during an informal neighborhood game in nearby Pasadena last Tuesday morning and died a short time later at St. Luke Medical Center. He was 40.

Litvak said the largest study of defects like Maravich's had only 43 patients. Thirty-four died before they turned 20. Many of them collapsed as Maravich did.

Graf, Mandlikova advance in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (Agencies) — World No. 1 Steffi Graf and defending champion Hana Mandlikova both scored quickfire victories Tuesday to advance to the second round of the women's singles of the \$1.9-million Australian Open tennis championships.

West German Graf recorded a 6-3, 6-1 centre-court triumph over Swedish-born Norwegian Amy Jonsson, who is ranked 17th in the world.

Czech-born Mandlikova, who obtained Australian citizenship three weeks ago, routed past former French Open champion Mima Jausovec of Yugoslavia 6-4, 6-1 on an outside court in the tournament at the National Tennis Centre.

Graf, 18, said she was feeling no pressure going into the first Grand Slam event of the year defending her No. 1 ranking.

"You get used to being No. 1 fairly quickly," she said.

Graf said she had been determined not to underestimate left-

hander Jonsson.

"I take every match very seriously. Today (Tuesday) wasn't easy. She was left-handed and her serve gave me some problems," Graf said.

Graf dominated Jonsson with some blistering groundstrokes, particularly on the forehand.

The match was interrupted by rain at 2-0 in the second set, but resumed after a delay of 15 minutes.

Graf criticised the newly introduced South Korean-made Nassau balls, which she said were "heavy."

Fifth-seeded Mandlikova, playing her first major event as an Australian, was watched by only a handful of fans on an outside court.

"Don't ask me how it feels to be playing as an Australian. Ask me after I've played my next match," she said.

Sixth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia progressed with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Jamie Golder of

the United States.

Ninth-seeded Lori McNeil of the United States also advanced Tuesday with a straightforward 6-2, 6-1 win over compatriot Dee Ann Hansel.

Second-seeded Martina Navratilova and third-seeded Chris Evert, both of the United States, won their opening matches Monday, the first day of the two-week tournament. It is the first to be played at the new \$60-million centre, which has a synthetic court.

Heather Ludloff of the United States upset 16th-seed Elizabeth Smylie of Australia, 6-1, 6-3.

Seventh-seeded Henri Leconte of France, 14th-seed Jonas Svensson of Sweden and 16th-seed Wally Masur of Australia all advanced in early men's singles first round action Tuesday.

Temperatures approached 38 degrees Celsius early in the day, but clouds cooled the temperature and it rained briefly midway through the afternoon.

W. Germany, Italy to clash in Euro champs opener

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (Agencies) — West Germany and Italy were drawn together on Tuesday in the opening match of the 1988 European Championship, a replay of the 1982 World Cup soccer final.

The draw pitted the two teams in the stronger of the two four-nation groups for the final stages of the competition in West Germany from June 10 to 25.

In the semifinals of the last tournament four years ago in France, complete the group.

But group two is only marginally weaker, including potential champions in England, The Netherlands and the Soviet Union. Ireland, appearing for the first time ever in the finals of a major tournament, is the fourth team in the group.

After the draw made by eight-year-old Christian Stielike, son of

former West German midfielder Uli Stielike, West German manager Franz Beckenbauer looked momentarily shaken.

"Our group is perhaps the stronger," he said. "But we have to take it as it comes. Anyway, we prefer to play big name teams."

Italy beat West Germany 3-1 in the 1982 World Cup final in Madrid and the Italians also did well the last time the two teams met, earning a 0-0 draw in Cologne last April.

Their opening match will be in Dusseldorf's Rheinstadion and both will have to be on top form to make progress. The top two teams from each group go through to the semifinals in Hamburg and Stuttgart, with the final being played in Munich's Olympic Stadium on June 25.

The 15 matches of the tournament will be staged in eight West German cities.

FISA criticises race organisers, hints at eliminating the event

Paris-Dakar's 12th stage reinstated after cancellation

NIAMEY, Niger (Agencies) — Tuesday's stage of the Paris-Dakar rally, called off when a morning sandstorm grounded support helicopters, was back on after conditions improved, organisers said.

The sandstorm cleared up during the afternoon, allowing helicopters to take off to monitor the race. Organisers said a timed special stage of 252 kms would be run as planned.

They said competitors were expected to finish the 819-km 12th stage, between Agadez and Niamey in Niger, about an hour behind schedule.

Finland's Ari Vatanen, driving for a Peugeot works team, leads the race which reached its halfway point on Sunday.

Meanwhile in Paris, Jean-Marie Balestre, president of the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA), on Tuesday criticised the operation of the Paris-Dakar Rally in which two men were killed last weekend.

Balestre has called for a meeting with the organisers at the end

of the 13,000-km race, which is due to become part of the official International Rally Circuit next year.

"The Paris-Dakar is a marathon rally, an adventure... I don't reject the risks that are inherent in automobile racing... but I reject that a human adventure be changed into a race against the clock," Balestre said in an interview in the French daily Le Figaro on Tuesday.

"I can affirm that Paris-Dakar will once again become a human adventure... or it will disappear from the international sporting calendar."

Balestre said organiser Gilbert Sabine had injected too much "show-biz" into the race.

"Why should a driver leave his own masseur alone? why not have one for each of the 300 drivers?" he asked sarcastically.

The FISA president also said the Gulf between amateurs and professional works teams had grown too wide, "drawing the amateur into the desert without offering him the possibility of

fighting his rivals on equal terms." Patrick Canado, a French team technician for Yamaha, and Dutch DAF co-driver Kees van Loewwezijn, died last weekend and 19 other people have been injured in the current rally, which ends next week in Senegal.

Monday was a rest day in the gruelling motor rally as competitors and mechanics took a break, made repairs and licked their wounds from the devastating first half of the competition, which claimed two lives.

Opinions were mixed on the 10th edition of the rally, some grumbling that it had become too difficult, too hazardous, others saying the risks had always been there.

Ari Vatanen of Finland remained at the top of the overall standings for cars and trucks and Franco Picco of Italy was the leader in the motorcycle category.

Well over half of the original 602 entrants have been forced to abandon the 12,874-kilometre rally.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Former world champ begins comeback

LONDON (R) — Former world featherweight champion Barry McGuigan of Northern Ireland will begin sparring again next week after more than 18 months out of the ring. "I want the sparring to be private at first to see how it goes," said McGuigan's manager Frank Warren. Warren hopes McGuigan will be back in the ring by April and then fight for the International Boxing Federation (IBF) super-featherweight title. McGuigan, 26, has not fought since he lost his World Boxing Association (WBA) title to American Steve Cruz in Las Vegas in June 1986. He chipped a bone in his thumb in a motor racing accident in 1987.

Khaosai to defend WBA title

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-bantamweight champion Khaosai Galaxy will defend his title against compatriot Kongtoranee Payakarn in Bangkok on Jan. 26.

Disabled skiers shooting for Olympics

CALGARY (AP) — Calgary by way of Innsbruck, Austria, is not a route recommended by most travel agents. But the world winter games for the disabled being held Jan. 19-24 at Innsbruck could be the first step to the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary. Two disabled skiing exhibitions involving 33 male and female athletes from 10 countries will be included at the Olympics. A five-kilometre cross-country ski race for the totally blind will be held Feb. 17, and a giant slalom race for above-the-knee amputees will be staged Feb. 21. An international committee will select the participating athletes from their performances at Innsbruck. Earl Olson, a spokesman for the Calgary disabled skiing exhibition, said the two disciplines were chosen carefully.

Police called in to investigate hockey fight

FARGO, North Dakota (AP) — Police are investigating an assault complaint by a Grafton high school hockey player following what coaches termed "an unprovoked attack" by a Fargo North high school player. Jason Aasvold, 17, was treated for a neck injury and received several stitches following the altercation with Fargo North senior Chris Shea during a game Saturday night at Fargo. North won the game 10-1. "The Fargo North player just attacked Jason. It was unprovoked, it was a violent act and I feel there's no room for it in the game of hockey," Grafton coach Keith Lindenberg said Monday. The altercation occurred while play was stopped after a penalty call, Lindenberg said.

Ex-boxer wins high court fight

WASHINGTON (R) — Former boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter has won a round in the supreme court in his fight against a triple-murder conviction. The justices let stand an appeals court ruling last August that overturned the convictions of Carter, a former middleweight contender, and co-defendant John Artis in the 1966 killings in a New Jersey bar. The state of New Jersey had asked the supreme court to hear the controversial case. The convictions were thrown out on the grounds that prosecutors at a second trial in 1976 improperly appealed to racial prejudice and did not give the defence evidence that a witness had failed a lie detector test. Prosecutors during the trial sought to portray the murders as racially motivated revenge stemming from the killing of a man popular in the black community of Paterson, New Jersey.

Pical to defend title against Colombian

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior bantamweight champion Elias Pical of Indonesia will defend his title Feb. 20 against Colombian Raul Diaz, a boxing official said Tuesday. Promoter Anton Sihotang said Pical has signed a \$50,000 contract for the 15-round bout in the West Kalimantan capital of Pontianak. He said Diaz, the IBF's top-ranked contender, will receive \$20,000.

Austrian wins World Cup Slalom

LIENZ, Austria (AP) — Bernhard Gstrein of Austria Tuesday beat Italian ace Alberto Tomba to win the fourth Men's World Cup Slalom this season.

Gstrein, who has had no World Cup points so far, was fastest in both heats in 48.76 and 46.38 seconds to win in one minute and 1:35.14 seconds overall.

Tomba was second in the race, held on a course with a vertical drop of 160 metres and flagged with 60 and 57 gates, in 1:35.41. Ex-world champion Jonas Nilsson of Sweden had heat times of 49.52 and 45.96 seconds to finish overall third in 1:35.48.

Nilsson's teammate, veteran Ingemar Stenmark, was unfortunate. Eleven after the first heat, he marked best intermediate time and was about to clinch a top spot when he tumbled halfway through the second heat on the lower part of the slope.

"I knew I'd be among the top finishers if I can complete the race," the 22-year-old Austrian winner said after the race. "I've often dropped out, sometimes in a promising position."

The race thrilled hundreds of Austrian and Italian fans until Gstrein, the last racer of the first group starting in reverse order in the second heat, was down.

Gstrein's advantage over Tomba in the first heat was only one hundredths of a second, a difference measurable only with the modern computerised time-keeping equipment.

He said: "To get self-confidence I've been training during recent weeks at home," in Tyrol's Oetz Valley.

Tomba retained the lead in World Cup standings. His closest rival, Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland, dropped out in the first heat.

Fourth was Christian Bittner of West Germany in 1:35.54, fifth Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg in 1:35.67, and sixth came Austrian Dithmar Koehlbichler, whose total time was 1:35.71.

He beat seventh-placed Felix McGrath of the United States by only ten hundredths of a second.

This east Tyrol town offered to organise the slalom at short notice to bring a semblance of order back into the World Cup calendar, in disarray following several cancellations due to lack of snow and mild weather.

The race was originally scheduled to take place on Jan. 5 and was then rescheduled for Jan. 12 in Bad Wiessee, West Germany. But there was not enough snow in the West German resort.

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The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, Feb. 4, 1988. Application for documents should be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of JD 50 for each set of tender documents. The closing date for submission of tenders is 12:00 hours local time, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1988.

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Ershad asks police to foil opposition's 'evil designs'

DHAKA (Agencies) — Bangladeshi President Hosain Mohammad Ershad, facing a mounting campaign for his resignation, asked police on Tuesday to foil any attempts to jeopardise democracy and ruin the economy.

"Some opposition parties are engaged in negative politics marked by bomb attacks, terrorism and destruction of public property," he said addressing the annual police parade.

"And police, I believe, would make best efforts to frustrate all their evil designs," he added. He was referring to a series of opposition-led general strikes in the past two months, during which officials said at least 17 people were killed in violence and the country lost more than \$700 million in production and exports.

Gen. Ershad earlier said he would hold parliamentary elections on Feb. 28 as planned despite a threatened boycott by the major opposition parties.

"I see no reason why the polls should not be held while the country has more than 100 parties and only a few are saying they will boycott," he told meetings of his Jatiya Party.

Although Gen. Ershad's reaffirmation of the election pledge drew loud cheers and clappings from his supporters, political analysts and diplomats were sceptical about the future vote.

Major opposition parties, including Sheikh Hasina's Awami League and Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party, have said they will not participate in the poll.

The two women, spearheading the anti-Ershad campaign, began a cross-country tour on Monday to ask people to boycott the elections until Gen. Ershad quit power.

"Elections without participation of the major parties would be a sham and meaningless show," one analyst told reporters.

Diplomats said such elections might risk the government's credibility with aid donors and friendly countries.

Gen. Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982 but reinstated civil rule in November 1986, has refused to resign under pressure.

He dissolved the 330-member parliament on Dec. 6, nine days after he imposed a state of emergency to thwart strikes and demonstrations by 21 opposition parties to force him out. Analysts said on Tuesday Gen.

Ershad may change the Jan. 20 date for parliamentary nominations as the opposition plans dawn-to-dusk general strikes on that day and Jan. 21.

These will be the 17th and 18th stoppages since the united opposition campaign against Gen. Ershad began on Nov. 10.

Sources close to Gen. Ershad said he might shift the voting date from Feb. 28 to the first week of March "depending on the situation."

Ershad to visit Italy

President Ershad will visit Italy for four days beginning Jan. 20, Western diplomats said Monday.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that Gen. Ershad was scheduled to address a conference of the International Fund and Agricultural Development during his stay in Rome.

Foreign Ministry officials refused to comment on the president's visit, but an official in the presidential palace told the AP "we are making preparations..."

Gen. Ershad is also expected to hold bilateral talks with the Italian government during his visit, the diplomats said.

Ignoring the two-month-old opposition campaign, the 57-year-old president visited Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia from Jan. 4 to 8.

C. American peace plan reviewed

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Foreign ministers of five Central American nations meet Tuesday to receive a report on what their countries have done, haven't done and need to do to live up to the terms of a five-month-old regional peace accord.

Even before receiving the report from an international commission, the ministers were aware that the peace plan has no chance of bringing an end to hostilities in the area by Friday's deadline.

Friday is the date the presidents of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica will meet to review progress of the plan, most of the major provisions of which were supposed to have gone into effect early last November.

The presidents, facing few other options than to abandon the plan altogether, are expected to once again extend its deadline for compliance, possibly by several more months.

President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, who won last year's Nobel Peace Prize for devising the plan, has said none of its objectives can be reached until cease-fires are achieved in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

In a weekend radio interview in San Jose, Costa Rica, where Friday's summit will be held, Mr. Arias said his fellow presidents "seem to have lost the political will" needed to end the shooting.

In addition to cease-fires, the Arias plan calls for general amnesties, greater democracy, an end to all outside aid to insurgents and a halt to the use of any country's territory as a staging area for attacks on another nation.

An International Verification and Follow-up Commission visited each of the five countries last week and, in virtually every case, heard conflicting testimony from government officials and internal opposition groups.

Each of the governments reported progress in promoting democracy, while opposition and human rights groups said conditions in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are no better or worse than when the five presidents signed the plan last Aug. 7.

Not only have Nicaragua's El Salvador and Guatemala failed to achieve cease-fires, but fighting between their governments and insurgent groups has increased in recent months.

In Washington, the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan has said it will ask the U.S. Congress for \$270 million more in military aid for Nicaragua's contra rebels, no matter what the Central American presidents decide to do.

The verification commission is made up of representatives of the United Nations, Organisation of American States, the Central American nations and eight Latin American countries — Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay.

Mr. Kohl is expected to travel to Prague at the end of the month, the first visit by a West German chancellor in 15 years.

"All of these efforts, however, will be taken with West Germany firmly anchored in the Western alliance," Mr. Kohl said.

He urged the superpowers to continue to work for new accords in the areas of short-range nuclear missiles, strategic nuclear weapons and reductions in conventional forces.

Kohl urges better ties with Soviets

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Monday that better relations with the Soviet Union are a top priority for the coming year.

"I want improvements in our relations on all levels," including disarmament, trade and cultural and scientific exchanges, said Mr. Kohl, speaking to reporters a week before Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visits Bonn.

Talks with Mr. Shevardnadze are also to focus on plans for a Kohl-proposed visit by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev later this year.

Mr. Kohl said West Germany is ready to help the Soviet Union in its implementation of economic reforms. He said efforts are also under way to improve cooperation with Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia.

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World spent \$930b on military in 1987 — study

WASHINGTON (AP) — Military spending worldwide soared to a new high of about \$930 billion in 1987, according to an annual study released Monday.

But along with the increase of \$50 billion from 1986, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed for the first time in history to scrap an entire category of nuclear weapons — their missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,000 kilometres (315 to 3,125 miles).

There were more wars under way than at any previous time in history, but also several promising breakthroughs for peace, said Ruth Leger Sivard, a former U.S. official who compiled the spending figures.

As potential turning points in the arms race, she cited the Washington summit meeting last month that produced the treaty, a proposed withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and efforts to reduce tensions in Central America and the Gulf.

Mrs. Sivard, who received financial help from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Arms Control Association, the British Council of Churches and other private groups, found cause for optimism in Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policies and U.S. President Ronald Reagan's final year in office.

She said Mr. Gorbachev, in a drive to rescue a failed economy, was trying to free it from an overwhelming military burden. Meanwhile, she wrote, "the American president too is on a rescue mission — to achieve a personal and popular triumph that can restore the power of his leadership..."

As a result, she said, the two leaders this year could go beyond the estimated 4 per cent reduction in their nuclear arms stockpiles to a significant change in their national priorities.

In 1987, Mrs. Sivard reported, the United States spent \$293 billion on its military and the Soviet Union \$260 billion. Together, this represented 59 per cent of the world's military expenditures.

U.S. military spending went up \$13 billion from 1986 and Soviet spending \$15 billion. Overall, the developed countries spent \$790 billion on the military in 1987, a boost of \$76 billion, while developing countries spent \$140 billion, a \$5 billion decrease.

There were \$26.6 million men and women in armed forces around the world last year, an increase over \$25.8 million in 1986. The Middle Eastern countries reached a peak of 3 million, while there were decreases in China and Africa.

The United States trimmed its forces to 2.16 million from 2.4 million, and the Soviet Union increased to 3.8 million from 3.66 million.

Twenty-two wars were under way in 1987, a record high. The total death toll so far is 2.2 million, Mrs. Sivard said. Civilians account for 64 per cent of the casualties.

Mrs. Sivard is a former chief of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency's Economics Division. She left in 1973 after the Pentagon complained about her comparisons between military and social spending.

Filipino businessmen join call for peace

MANILA (R) — Philippine businessmen on Tuesday condemned as "madness" election violence in the country hours after gunmen shot dead a woman candidate in the 71st murder of the poll campaign.

"We call for a stop to this senseless violence caused by the coming elections. The time has come for the business sector to speak up once again and call a halt to this madness," said Ricardo Romulo, chairman of the influential Makati Business Club.

His call followed similar appeals from President Corason Aquino and Cardinal Jaime Sin for unity as well as a halt in the escalating violence, vote-buying and other electoral dishonesty.

"Few have noticed and fewer still have publicly condemned another kind of violence: Violence visited upon the body politic by politicians run amok," Mr. Romulo said in a statement.

"It is time to raise our voices and appeal for sobriety and responsibility in debating national issues. The vituperation, the hatred, the calumny... we must seek an end to."

The call for peace came five days before Filipinos elect governors and mayors in 73 provinces and 1,600 towns and cities.

Opposition mayoral candidate Erinda Capili was shot dead by unknown men on Monday while speaking at a rally of 3,000 people in Saint Bernard town, central Leyte Island.

A military spokesman said Communist rebels might have been behind the killing.

Mr. Capili was the third mayoral candidate to be killed in 48 hours. Two mayoral aspirants in Quezon and Nueva Vizcaya provinces were assassinated on Sunday and Monday in incidents also blamed on the rebels.

In campaign eorties, Mrs. Aquino has appealed for clean, peaceful elections, saying polling amid fear and fraud was worthless.

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China rebuffs Gorbachev call for summit

PEKING (R) — China on Tuesday rebuffed Mikhail Gorbachev's latest call for a Sino-Soviet summit meeting by repeating top leader Deng Xiaoping's demand that Moscow first pressure Vietnam to end its occupation of Kampuchea.

"Deng Xiaoping has made quite clear the conditions for a high level meeting," a Chinese Foreign ministry spokeswoman said.

"It is the strong aspiration of the international community that Vietnam withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea promptly," she added.

Mr. Deng, 83, told a Japanese visitor in early December, "Without Soviet assistance, Vietnam could not fight a single day in Kampuchea."

He had earlier been quoted as saying he hoped to meet Mr. Gorbachev within two years, before he grew too old.

China calls the Kampuchean issue one of the "three obstacles" to improved ties with Moscow, the other two being the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and its heavy concentrations of troops on China's northern border.

Western diplomats said last month that Mr. Deng appeared to have softened in narrowing the conditions for a summit down to only one — action on Kampuchea — but was unlikely to make a further concession.

In the latest issue of a Chinese magazine, Mr. Gorbachev told an interviewer a summit would be a "logical development" of the thawing attitudes between Moscow and Peking.

The last full summit took place in 1959, when Chairman Mao Tse-tung met Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in Peking before ideological differences soured relations between the two powers.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Gaston Sigur said in Washington on Tuesday that he saw Mr. Gorbachev's proposed summit meeting with China as a positive move.

"It's a good thing if the Soviet Union and China can restore normal relations as soon as possible," he told reporters in Asia during a satellite-linked news conference, monitored in Hong Kong.

"We see nothing in (the Sino-Soviet) relationship which could be detrimental to us or our friends in the Asia-Pacific area," he said.

Meanwhile Vietnamese sources said Tuesday Vietnam is willing to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea as early as the end of this year, whether or not talks between opposing Kampuchean groups are resolved.

Western diplomatic sources expressed surprise at the development, which follows Chinese publication of Mr. Gorbachev's renewed call for a Sino-Soviet summit.

A Vietnamese troop withdrawal would solve the key sticking point in the conflict between guerrillas led by the exiled Kampuchean coalition government and the Hanoi-backed administration in Phnom Penh.

Sweden, Soviet Union sign Baltic agreement

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Sweden said on Tuesday it had settled a long-standing dispute with the Soviet Union over economic exploitation of the Baltic Sea, which had hampered better relations with Moscow.

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson announced the agreement at a Stockholm news conference.

"After 19 years of negotiations, we have reached a compromise on this difficult question but it is a compromise with which Sweden can be unreservedly satisfied," Mr. Carlsson said.

The accord was clinched in a four-hour meeting on Monday between Mr. Carlsson and visiting Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov. The Swedish cabinet formally approved it on Tuesday.

The dispute centred on a 8,500-square mile area between the Swedish Baltic island of Gotland and the coast of Soviet Latvia.

The area has rich fish stocks and is believed to have oil. Mr. Carlsson said Moscow had agreed to give up three-quarters of the disputed zone. In earlier negotiations in 1982, it had been willing to concede only a small part of the area.

He said the agreement was an expression of a new spirit of Soviet foreign policy.

"We felt for the past year that there was a genuine Soviet desire to reach a solution," he said.

Mr. Carlsson added that, as a result of the agreement, foreign fishing fleets wishing to operate in the Swedish zone would need a licence from Stockholm.

"There will no longer be a question of a free-for-all," he said.

Swedish fishermen had said failure to reach agreement would have created the danger of over-fishing.

"It's the first time that a small state in dispute with a superpower has reached such an advantageous result," Mr. Andersson told the state-run Swedish radio.

Under the accord, the United States pledges to obtain Canadian consent before sending any more icebreakers through waters claimed by Ottawa.

The two sides also agreed that navigation and resource development must not adversely affect the fragile Arctic environment or the 25,000 Canadian Inuit Eskimos who live there.

They also discussed Canadian demands for U.S. action to curtail acid rain, and plans for a final summit between President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, expected in Washington this spring.

The Arctic pact culminated 24 months of negotiations, sparked by a public outcry in Canada when the U.S. Coast Guard ice-

breaker Polar Sea traversed the Northwest Passage in 1985.

Canada responded by claiming full sovereignty over all the waters surrounding its 18,000 Arctic Islands. It also ordered a 450-million-dollar (\$346-million) giant icebreaker of its own and launched a plan to acquire 10 to 12 nuclear-powered submarines, capable of patrolling under the ice to keep out intruders.

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Team begins search for ancient port

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — An international team of archaeologists began a two-month expedition Tuesday to uncover the site of an ancient port they think linked Oman with Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley Civilisation. Expedition leader Julian Reade, 49, a curator at the British Museum in London, said early findings indicated that Ras Al Junayz, a sleepy fishing village along the sultanate's Arabian Sea coastline, was a bustling harbour in the fourth millennium B.C. "From a global point of view, it is very important that we establish the relationship between ancient civilisations," Reade said. "We believe this site will provide valuable evidence proving Oman's links with Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley." The 10-man team is working in liaison with Oman's Ministry of National Heritage and Culture.

85-year-old marries 2 girls on same day

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An 85-year-old merchant married two teenage girls simultaneously and consummated both marriages the same night, a newspaper reported Sunday. The merchant, Khafan Askour, from the emirate of Sharjah had the two brides specially imported from India to avoid paying the high dowries commanded by local girls, said the newspaper Al Itihad. He decided to go ahead with the double wedding ceremony after doctors told him he was fit and virile enough despite his age. The newspaper quoted Askour as saying he opted for a double wedding so that his two wives could keep each other company. "One wife by herself at home could get bored," he said. "But only a few days after the wedding the two began arguing and fighting each other," he complained. Askour said he was unable to stop the squabbling "because I don't understand, much less speak Indian," the newspaper reported.

Klein honoured at ceremony

NEW YORK (AP) — The stars of the fashion industry and their devoted followers, including first lady Nancy Reagan, assembled Monday night to honour the 1987 winners of the most prestigious American fashion awards. The Council of Fashion Designers of America, in selecting the designers to be honoured at its seventh annual awards ceremony at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, applauded lean and sexy clothes that are decidedly feminine without any fuss. Calvin Klein, whose fall and spring shows in 1987 featured clean-lined clothes that given elegance a new, modern interpretation, received the council's top award for producing the best American collection of the year. Klein received his stainless steel statuette from Grace Mirabella, editor-in-chief of Vogue magazine. She commended him "for exploring new avenues of American style." Prior to the award ceremony, Klein arrived with his wife, Kelly, who was wearing one of his new spring creations, a short lace dress with a scooped neck. Italian Designer Giorgio Armani was honoured for lifetime achievement in menswear. His sister, Roseanna, accepted the award on his behalf from designer Bill Blass.

Survey: Legislators frustrated with jobs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Many members of the U.S. Congress say they're frustrated with their jobs and worry about "legislative gridlock," but they aren't in any hurry to find another line of work, according to a survey released Tuesday. More than eight out of 10 said they hope to remain in Congress, but they'd also like some relief from hectic schedules, the burden of campaigning and stresses on family life. "The current system gives members no time to think, no time to confer with their colleagues and staff and what's worse, it fosters a sense of isolation among individuals and between parties," said Ellen S. Miller, executive director of the Centre for Responsive Politics. The centre, a non-profit, bipartisan research organisation, queried 114 legislators and 115 aides last year about what's wrong in Congress and whether — and how — the system should be changed. Nearly 45 per cent of the members said Congress "inefficiency" was what surprised them the most. Yet 51.7 per cent thought they should get a pay raise. Some 94.7 per cent of the legislators said significant changes are needed, with complaints most frequently focused on chaotic work schedules, the budget-drafting process, the demands of campaign fund raising and the strains on home life.

Clint Eastwood may run again

CARMEL, California (R) — Movie star Clint Eastwood says he will probably run for another term as mayor of this seaside town. Eastwood, 57, who was first elected in April 1985, said in an interview published over the weekend by the Monterey Peninsula Herald, that his decision to seek another two-year term was not firm but that "probably, off the top of my head" he would run. He told the newspaper he hopes to deal with Carmel's parking and water problems in a second term. Successes in his first term — which turned city council meetings into tourist attractions because of his presence — included expanding the local library and settling the vexing question of an ice cream stand on the main street. Mayor Eastwood, as the town's number one citizen, also played host during his first term to Pope John Paul and Spain's King Carlos. Eastwood, a Conservative Republican who cut back on his film schedule to serve as mayor, said he had no aspirations for higher office.

Rambo III booted in previews

NEW YORK (R) — A two-minute clip of the third instalment of Sylvester Stallone's Rambo series is being jeered across the United States, and some analysts are predicting an end to the saga. In the new movie, Vietnam veteran John Rambo goes to Afghanistan to fight the Soviet occupation forces. But the war may be over by the time the film is released, and its steel-jawed vision of a Soviet "evil empire" may have lost its popular appeal amid a rapprochement between Washington and Moscow. At New York's Movieland Cinema, an audience there to see Wall St. booted loudly when the Rambo character appeared. "Yuppie Swine," a unit publicist with Rambo III who is in daily contact with Stallone, said of the audience reaction. "They booed and hissed in Westwood, too," he said, referring to a well-to-do area of Los Angeles. "But we know his audience," said the publicist, who asked to remain anonymous. "It's blue-collar, hardcore. They're going to get what they want. Rambo III will outgross the second one," he said. "When you see Rambo riding a horse, with the sun in the background, it's gonna knock you out." But the initial crowd reaction to the film suggests the bloom may have faded from Stallone's muscular and enormously popular political cartoon films.

Host pulls out of Miss Universe pageant

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Television game show host Bob Barker says he has pulled out as master of ceremonies of the Miss Universe beauty pageant after 21 years because officials insist on giving away a fur coat on the show. Barker, an animal rights activist, said his withdrawal was tied to a pledge he made after last year's controversy over the use of furs on the show. He earned a six-figure salary as host of the programme. "I've withdrawn from the Miss Universe and Miss USA beauty pageants after 21 years because of the fur giveaway," Barker said. "For years I have urged them to stop giving away a fur coat to the winner of the pageant. Last year, they promised me they wouldn't be giving away a fur coat. Now, I have been told that they are going to use a fur coat as an award on the March 1 show from El Paso, Texas." Pageant official George Honchar, who has been discussing the fur issue with Barker over the past several days, left for Taiwan on Monday and was unavailable for comment on the resignation. The withdrawal follows last year's fur controversy involving the swim suit competition. It was settled shortly before the show was to go on when pageant officials agreed to use fake furs for the show.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THE UNLUCKIEST DAY OF THE YEAR?

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

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